4
Yozakura Quartet
Suzuhito Yasuda

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Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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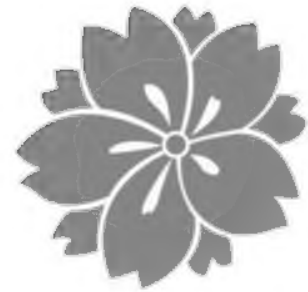

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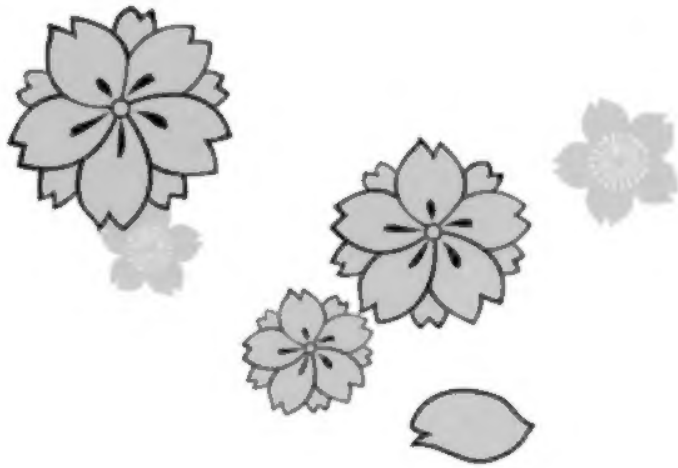
A Note from the Author

I bought an electronic drum set so that I would get more exercise.
I play my favorite songs, even though I suck. Or I play it with video games.
It actually gives me a good workout.
Anyway, the instrument Akina is playing is called "timbales."
It sounds good and I would want one, but it would cause noise issues with my neighbors.
I wish someone would make electronic timbales.
I know it's a niche market, but...

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 4

Suzuhito Yasuda

Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.
Hime Yarizakura
The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.
Akina Hiizumi
Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night
Yozakura Quartet
CHARACTER PROFILE

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori, a demon that can read minds.

Ao Nanami

Kotoha Isone

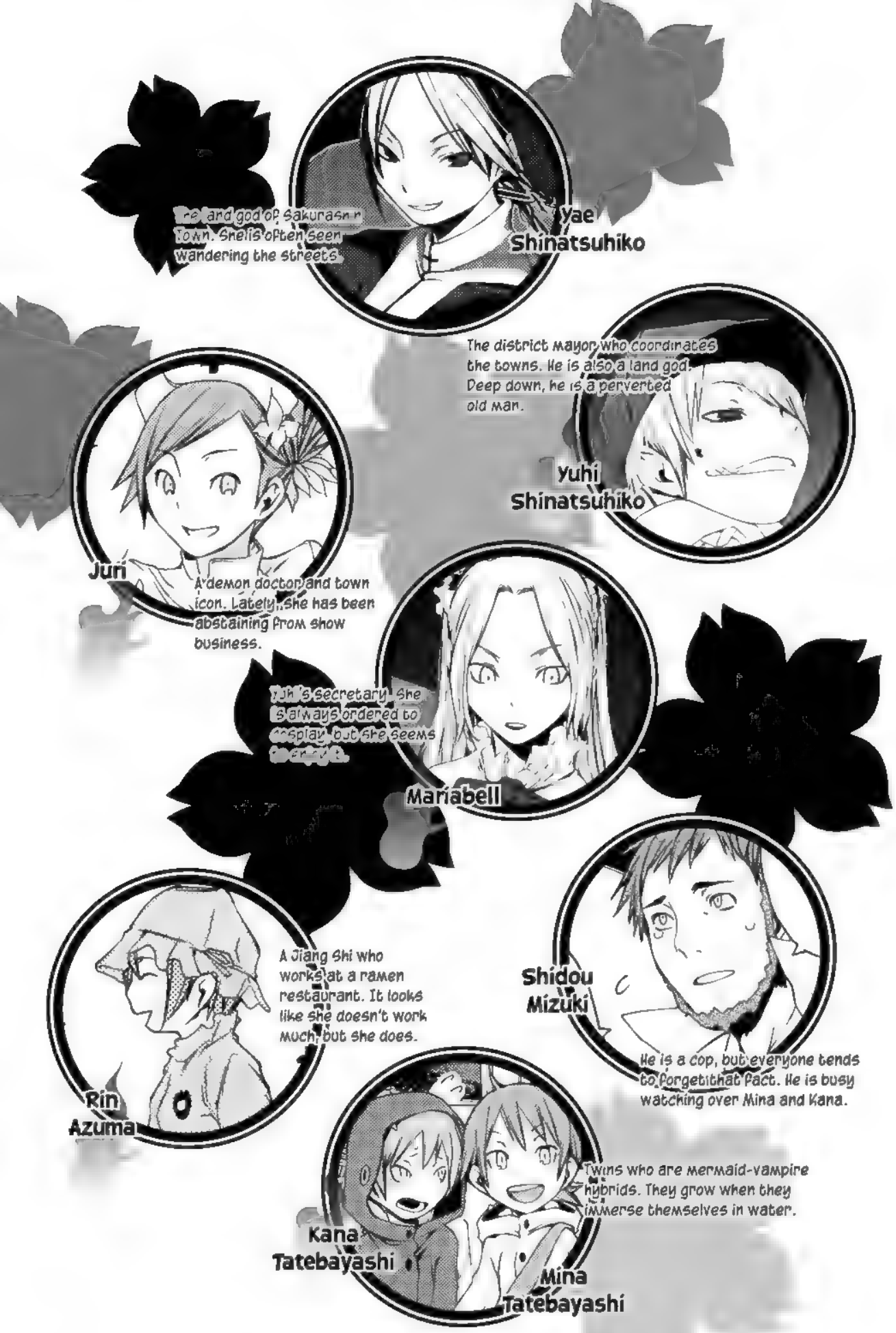
A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kotodama user, someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

Kyosuke Kishi

Hime's assistant. He keeps his demon powers in check with shackles. He cares deeply for his younger sister, Touka, and he is constantly worried about her.

Touka Kishi

Kyosuke's younger sister. She can't control her demon powers. She is secretly in love with Akina.


Yae
Shinatsuhiko
Yuhi
Shinatsuhiko
Juri
A demon doctor and town icon. Lately, she has been abstaining from show business.
Mariabell
Shidou
Mizuki
He is a cop, but everyone tends to forget that fact. He is busy watching over Mina and Kana.
Rin
Azuma
A Jiang Shi who works at a ramen restaurant. It looks like she doesn't work much, but she does.
Kana
Tatebayashi
Mina
Tatebayashi
Twins who are mermaid-vampire hybrids. They grow when they immerse themselves in water.

A suspicious elderly gentlemen. He conspires with Morino and attacks Sakurashin Town.

The current mayor of the neighboring town. He conspires with a mysterious old man to kidnap Kohime.

Morino's secretary. He is half-demon like Kotoha, and has superhuman physical strength.

Kime's cousin and a candidate for the mayor of the neighboring town. She has been kidnapped.

The old lady at the antique shop. She's been taking care of Kime and her friends ever since they were little.

The old man at the antique shop. He might be a good person at heart.

OUTLINE

Kime and the gang were pulled into the mess surrounding the upcoming mayoral election in the neighboring town. During all of this, Kime was able to obtain the Dragon Spear, which is passed on to Sakurashin's mayor.

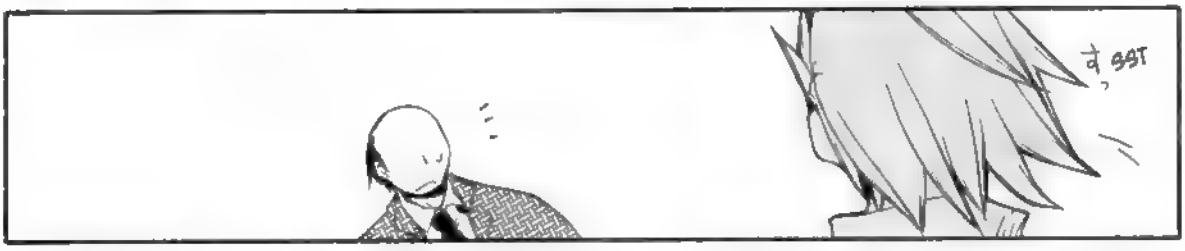
4
Yozakura Quartet Contents

Bwa ha ha ha!!
Ha ha!
ZWISH
To think there are still phenomena I don't know about!
Well, well. What an interesting town.
More fun to crush.

18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8)

I won't go easy on you.

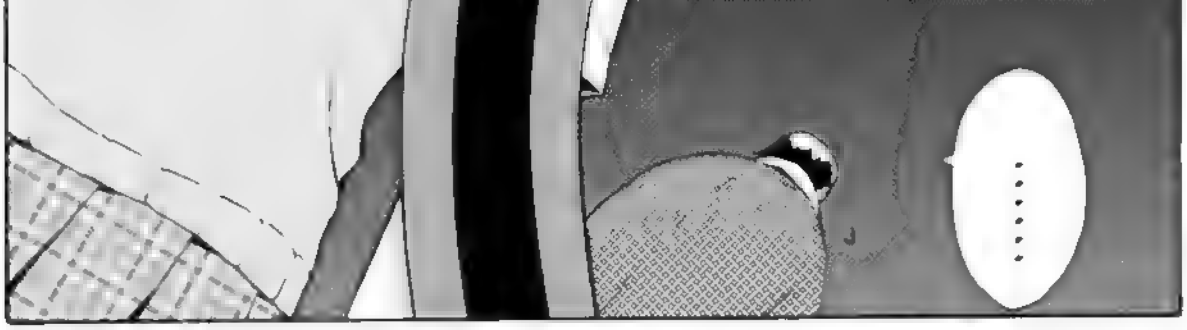
.....
Why won't you move?
What's wrong?
Hey.
I guess it's time for my back-up plan.
.....


?

.....
.....

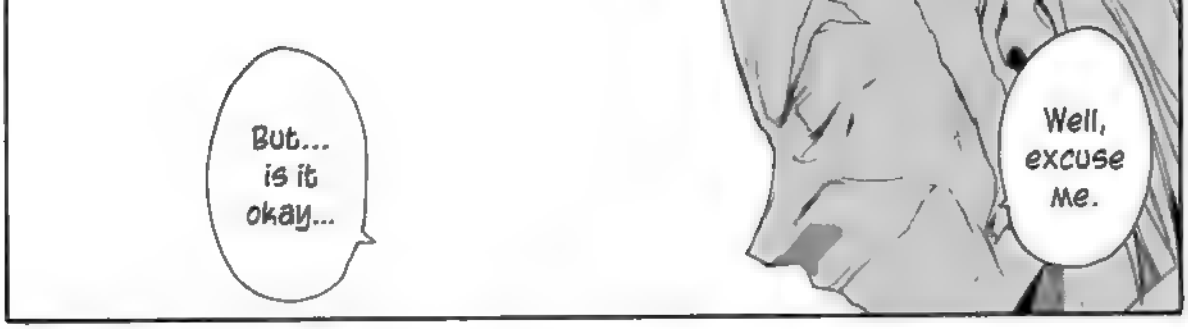
CLICK
ZWISH
Oh, right.
You only listen to the mayor.
.....?
I was baby-sitting.
You should thank me.
TAP
Kohime !!
!!
Whoa !

Hey, Take!
Damn it.
I completely forgot about her!!
Hey!!
What?!
.....
What the heck?! Is this how you handle your town?!
Is this what you became the mayor for?!
.....
Jinroku-ojii-san...
Take! What are you doing?!
I can't believe you're doing this! Forgetting what your teacher taught you about how to be a mayor!
And in this, of all towns!!
You ungrateful fool!
Urgh...


.....

Sorry, but save that for later.
It's almost daybreak.
Someone who teaches how to be a mayor?
Such a person exists?

CRACKLE
The situation's different now.
You better watch out.
A dragon and a demon are angry!
What are you going to do? Depending on what you decide...
You know what?

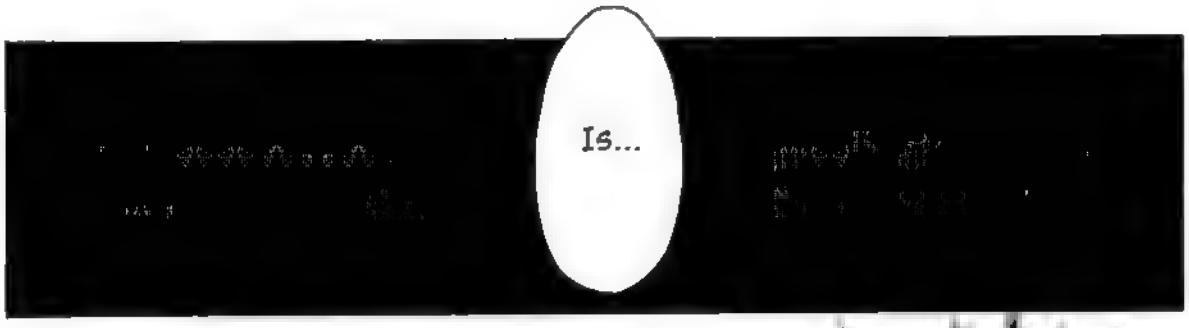

But... is it okay...
Well, excuse me.

It's too late!
That can't be helped! Hime, don't let him sway you!
Fine. From now on...

Hmm.
!
Come to think of it... Although it's too late...

...for the mayor to resort to violence?

Actually, I have... PERFECT ATTENDANCE! NO TARDINESS!
...I will be...
...a fighting school-girl!!


Is...

...that any good?!
PROUD FACE

Ha ha.
CRACKLE

Then I'm here acting as your friend.
SHINE
You admit you're acting!!

The Dragon Spear!!
Why is a high school girl holding such a weapon ?!
This is just like a big strap, that's all.
Fine.

RRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEEEEEE
THUD
Er!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
SWAT
Then this is it.
FLASH

Urgh!!
This is too MUCH!!
RRRJUMMMBBBLLLLEEE
THUD
CRASH

THUD
……！

KIRIE
KIRIE
BEER

……
ぱっ
TOM

Jii-san! Don't move from that spot!
JUMP
There's no doubt...
.....
What?! Why would I get near... that thing?!
CRASH
WOOSH
Grr!

We're able to handle it because I have the Dragon Spear.
But this is hard!
WOOOOOSH
CRUSH
Hime-sama.
Our primary objective isn't to defeat it.
Remember that.
That's true.
!
Humph!
Discussing strategy, huh?

Eighteenth Formation...
JUMP
...Scattering Spiderlings!!
CRASH
Urgh...
WHOOOSH

Not so fast!
GRAB
FWOOSH

That's...

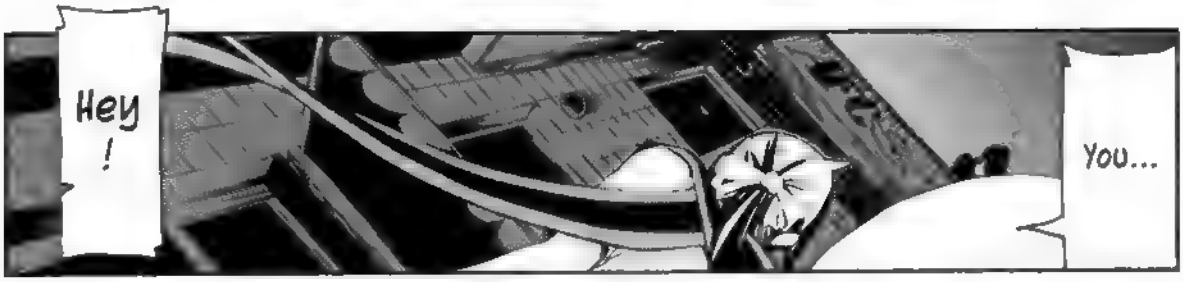
My line.

CRAAAAAAAAAAAAASH
Urgh...
FOOSH!!
Now...
Akina !!
JUMP
!

Huh?
POOF
That was close.
Ha ha.
AFC
?!
What?

No!
He moved that far in an instant?
There's no way.
If he did, my dynamic vision would be able to follow him!
So he didn't move at high speed!
Hee hee.
I don't know. It's like frames skipping in a video.
That's not it, either.
What?
So he warped?
OPEN
If you're going to resist, then I have no choice.
SST
HANG

Ko...
Kohime!
Heh. She's heavy in these old arms.
I might drop her.
...!


Hey!
You...

But things are not going as planned, so...
HANG
HANG
That wasn't part of the deal! We said we wouldn't hurt the kid!
We did.
Morino!

What are you trying to do, you...!
ZWISH
Uh...
What do you want me to do?
I can back off, but if I do, you won't win the election...
!
You're still going to stand in the way?
Heh heh.
Because you listen to your mayor no matter what, right?

You're an idiot. But I always knew that you worked hard for your town, so I didn't hate you.
...Grr!
Morino!
But this is wrong.
.....
I can't believe you're using a child as a shield to protect your status!!
Right now...
I hate you!!
IDIOT!
.....
Are you done?
Sorry, but...
ZZZ

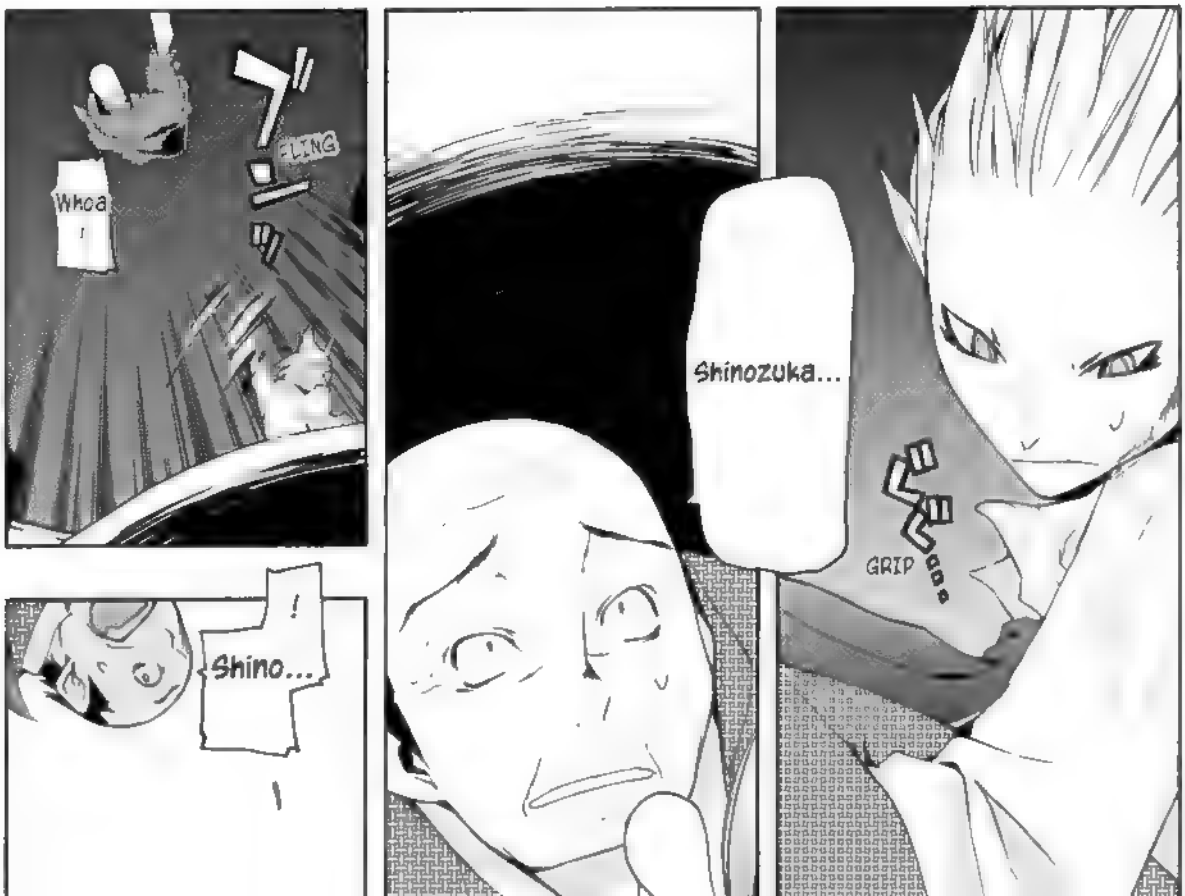
Ko...
Kohime !!
...My arm is tired.
だ DASH!!
Hold...
it!!
だ JUMP
CATCH
!

People learn how to protect others when they are protected themselves!
I still need to protect her!
Morino!
I don't have to be reelected mayor! If there is someone more worthy, I'll gladly give up the position!
!
Those are my grandmother's words...
But she's still too young!!

Shino...
CREAK
Urgh...
Then I can't help it... Eat them both.
Humph.
MOMP
MOMP
Then she was his teach-er?

Shinozu-
kaaaa!
GRAB
That's
it.
That's
more...
like
my
master.
Shinozuka...
He...

Want to come to my town?
It's a good place... My town!
...doesn't want to stay in this town.
Because he fell and caused many people trouble.
Hmm?
I see. We.. he probably wants to be alone and think for a while
Okay.
You're not mayor yet.
Soon I will be! Maybe by the next election...


Whoa!
FLING
Shino...!
Shinozuka...
GRIP

CHOMP
WOOSH
Whoa!
Shino...
Shino-zuka!!
THUD
This doesn't look good.
Shinozuka! Answer me!!

And he told my men not to do anything, so he could take all the blame!
He was the one who opposed this plan all along!
I beg you!
No problem!
Got it!
But what should we do?
I beg you!
But, please, help him!
I know I can't ask...
But we have no other option! We have to try it...
Wait!
She's coming soon...
No.
You'll hurt Shino-zuka, too!
Maybe I can rip his belly open with the Dragon Spear?!

Yeeeee...
hawww!
KICK
There she is!
Whoa.
Heard the previous conversation
I'll be Fighting School Girl #2!!
HELLO!!
You're crazy!!
Use your kotodama!
ACK!
Back!
THUD

I...
Hello ?!
Can you hear me? If you can, answer me!
NOK
NOK
NOK
Hello?
...won't melt that fast.
I can hear you...
I'm creating it inside...
INHALE
Are you ready, Akina? Send it quickly so it doesn't suffer!
If he can hear me, then my kotodama will reach him, too!
?!
Shinozuka!
Good!

CRACKLE
Huge...
SWORDS
!!
THUNK
Akina
!
CRACKLE
Got
it!!
Ready...
Tuning
!!
FLASH

Akina, you okay?!
I'm fine.
Hm.
That... hurt!
SWING
THUD
Ow.
ZWISH
I imagine that hurt. If you use your power too much...
...won't you be out of alignment from this dimension?
Huh, Mr. Akina Hiizumi?
!
.....
This old man... How come he knows so much?!

Listen!
PEEK
Oh yeah, I used Satellite, and I ran out of energy...
...!!
DAZED
WAKE UP!
Huh?
She's awake.
Oh, Ao-chan.
I can't read that old man's mind.
It's weird. Very weird!!
...Heh.
SMIF
I guess it's good timing.
Heh heh.
Who exactly are you?!
You hypnotized us, so we can't get out of town...

What?
I'm a little tired...
op showing the illusion.
No... way!

Nii-san...?
Ni...
Why are you...?
Gin? Are you Gin?
GRIN
WOBBLE
It's different...
No way...

On the inside...
he's completely different.
Who are you?
Ha ha ha.
Why don't you ask the director?
You have an idea, don't you?
Huh?
.....
Causing demons to drop...
can only be done by a Hiizumi.
Bingo!
You've heard that name from the old tales, right?

18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8) END

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Shinozuka. He hasn't changed much.

The Hiizumi who was sent to the Afterworld...
...Enyou Hiizumi...
...Met his descendant, Enjin Hiizumi!!
CRACKLE

19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9)

I'M...
... not going to say I'M not scared of dying.
I think dying is a scary thing.
Because I believe that I can come back.
Then why am I going?

If there is a Hiizumi over there, he will be able to help me.
Right? They're your ancestors...
Akina.
.....
With their help, we should be able to stop the two dimensions from integrating.
Of course, you have to work hard on this side, as well.
.....
SQUEEZE
Don't look so sad, Ao.
I'll be back soon. I promise.
Akina.
I'll definitely be back.
But until then, please take care of my sister.

Okay?
Akina?
But...
Why?
Hey, I don't understand.
I heard about the two dimensions integrating... but the descendants of Hiizumi?!
What's going on?
And I heard that Gin was on a journey.
Heh.

We didn't finish talking earlier, Hime.
The integration of the dimensions started a long time ago.
We didn't know what was causing it.
So the people who tried to stop it were me, my grandfather...
...and Ao's older brother, Gin.
We thought we could get in touch with Enyou's descendants and work from both dimensions...
...and Gin volunteered to go to the Afterworld.

So I...
With my own hands...
...tuned Gin.

Tuning to go see Enyou's family?
I thought Enyou's family died over there!!
Be-cause...
Ha!
Ha ha ha ha!!
?
...?

You guys sent him...
to the Afterworld to suit your needs...
...and you figured he was dead?
The people from this dimension are that selfish, huh?
That's hilarious!!
TH-THUMP
To suit our needs?

Enyou Hiizumi went there by his own choice, right?
What are you talking about?
TH-THUMP
TWITCH
.....
I see!
Heh. Heh heh...
Ha ha ha ha!!
ZWISH
No wonder you have no idea what I'm talking about.
I see now!!
Are you saying...
Fine. I'll tell you.

Enyou Hiizumi...
was made into a living pillar.
He didn't want to...
but his whole family was forced into it.
?!
We were all the same clan, but our family suffered because we were just an offshoot.
And they had the nerve to tell people that he volunteered!
So this is the Hiizumi family legacy!! Ridiculous!
Argh!!

They are wedges Enyou sent to integrate the two dimensions.

The Seven Pillars are not landmarks for tuning.

Could it be...

The two dimensions are integrating...

Did you notice that the dimensions get distorted...

.....

...every time you do a tuning?

.....?

That's right.

They are proof of his resentment !!

And you use them as guides to tuning.
That's funny!
.....

His body?!
You're going to take over his body?!
Ha ha.

Akina Hiizumi...
...I need your body.
!

Thanks to all that, the dimension got too distorted.
But I need one more push from the main branch of the Hiizumi family.

I just need your spirit to exit first.
SNAP
It's simple.
Like this.
WOBBLE
Ao!
!!

CRACKLE
Did you know?
These aren't ears, but antennae.
Ha ha!
Of course, this body will come in quite handy, too.
She can read minds by receiving thoughts.
But they can send signals, too.
...?
For example...
Like showing illusions?
The opposite of reading minds... is... interfering with the mind?
You're quite smart.

...this.
VOOM
!!
The Dragon Spear?!
What's this?
Huh?!
Why are there two?!

WOOSH
!
What's going on?!
That was close!
So this is his power, huh?!
SWING
Whoa!

VOOSH
Shoot!
Just kidding.
ZJI
If it's an illusion...
I won't be scared of...
CRACKLE
FOOSH

...it!
SHNK
A fake-out...
TURN

THUD
...doesn't do you any good unless you have something real, too.
.....
...?

Urgh!
THUD

Ow...
Whoa.
Pressure!
CRUSH

Ugh.
Damn it...
THUD
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
KICK

ZWOOSH
GRAB
Move, Shidou-san.
I'M going to kill him.
No, Hime-chan.
GRIP!!
We still need to ask him things...

Okay.
CLAP
It ends there, folks.
!
It's a wrap.
District Mayor!
And Mariabell.

Why are you here?
PRESS
I'm taking my morning walk.
Now that's enough.
No, it's not! He killed Akina...
He...
Heh.
GONE
Huh?
What?
Oh.
Huh?!
I guess it is enough.

This is how he moved so fast earlier...
I see.
An... illusion?!
Huh?

I'll...
FOOSH

...come say hi another time.
!

See you, Akina Hiizumi.
Wake up now.
.....

WAKES
!!
FLINCH
Sleeping?
Huh?
.....
TINK
RUSTLE
...Hime Memo?!
The...
Ouch!
I bit my tongue
Urgh...
I couldn't help it! I was surprised...
You're killing me!
WHACK
WHACK
If you were okay, you should've let us know! Idiot!!

ROLL
ROLL
ころころ
?!
!

Urgh...

Hime...

.....

Urggg...
URGH
ぐすっ...
SNIFF
ずずっ...
SNIFF

Oh, that's right.
Sorry...
But the election caused quite a mess.
Sigh.
STRETCH

That kid can't run for mayor.
Morino, you're the mayor again.

What...?
Whaaaa-aaaaat?!
She can't become mayor at nine years old.
This town is special.

Sheesh.
TAD
とん

SLUMP
I'm so tired.
What... was all this racket for, then?
SIGH

すやすやすや…
……
SIGH
Good job,
Mayor.

SMILE
SHINE
SHINE
SMILE
Hime is so happy today.
It's thanks to you, Akina.
Me?
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
Hey, don't add extra things!
Let's put a soba table there...

Where's Ao?
She's still sleeping.
She said she'd come out tomorrow.
I see...

HEE HEE HEE
Your scarf was fixed!
MUNCH MUNCH
?

ZWISH
Pheeeew.
It's going to take a while.

Of course they'll help!
Yeah, but we were involved, too...
Sorry for making everyone help.

ALONE

Humph! I know...
All our merchandise blew away, so we have to start from scratch.

I want to become an adult soon.
SOB SOB
SNIFF
Sigh...I can't be a mayor for twenty more years.
山住
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Huh?
Oh, that's the thing you grabbed when we ran away.
TAP
Stop crying!

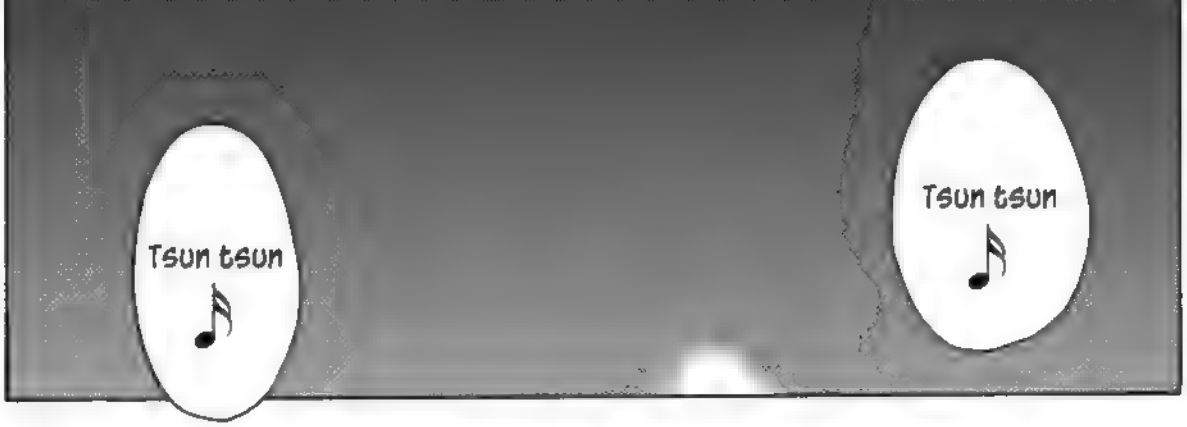
You're going to become a mayor!
Ugh...
What are you making?
?
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
DASH
Until she becomes a great mayor...
...she can use this to eat good food...

Humph.
She seems okay.
Hey, there's no price on this.
That's not for sale!
Bike Clouds
Then you'll grow in no time.
Use this to eat good things!
Hey.
ZWISH

It's that beautiful bowl!!!
Oh. Ooooh!
Thank you, old man!
I'll eat a lot and grow up fast!
I'll eat everything in this!
Humph!
How nice.
I want one, too.
STARE
Yes!
He gave it to you?
Oh, that bowl.
Phew, that was tiring.

19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9) END

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet


Tsun tsun
Tsun tsun

Mina, you're singing the song wrong...
There are a few "dere"s in there, too!
TMD
TMD
Tsun tsun tsuuuun

It's okay. Don't worry.
Huh?
We're barely going to make it because you over-slept.

There's a festival, too. How fun!
The Seven Pillars Stamp Rally, huh?
Sheesh.
Stamp Rally
Sakurashin Town
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Here, hang this around your neck.
POINK
Oh, that's right.

Uh, I...
Hey! Are you participating in the Stamp Rally, too?!
DASH
Oh?!
Oh, yeah...
Here, put this around your neck!
Then you can join us! You should hurry before it ends!
.....
Okay, let's go!
Wait, Mina!

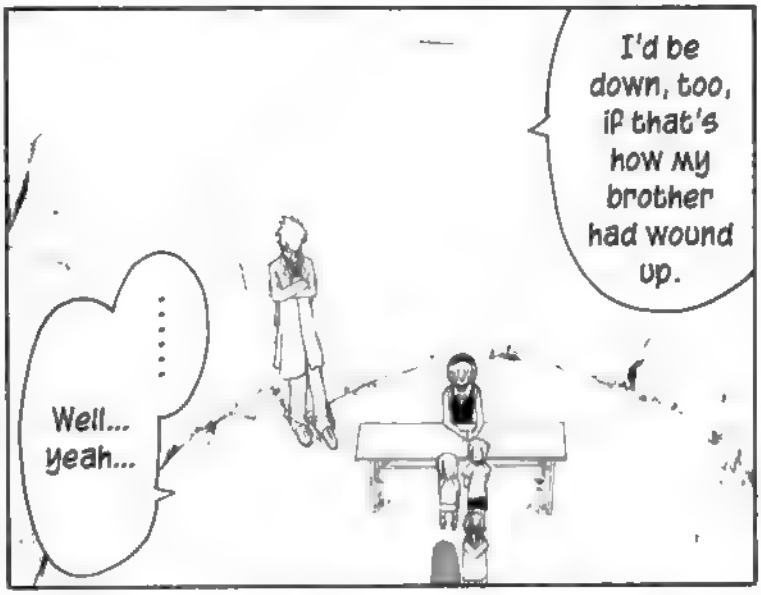
20th Night: Thorny Road (End)

Oh, there it is.
The first pillar!!
Oh.
ぺたん
STAMP

You have to line up.
Ao, stamp our cards!
……
まいど!
HELLO!
That's a weird group.
Why are you here today, Shinozuka-san?
I thought I would come say sorry to everyone for the trouble I caused. But Yae-san found me first thing this morning.
Oh, that's why you have a stamp card.
ぺったんこ
STAMP
ぺったんこ
STAMP
She told me everyone is out helping with the festival, so I felt I should take part, too.
That's true.
There are seven pillars, so it's a lot of work.
ぺったんこ
STAMP
Well, I'll take my time going around.

I heard you weren't feeling well.
.....
Huh?
Oh, you know about that?
HOW EMBARRASSING.

But...
It's not like all hope is gone.


I'd be down, too, if that's how my brother had wound up.
.....
Well... yeah...

Your brother's spirit is still alive?
PHEW
Yes!
Once I heard that, I knew I had to get better.
CREAK

STAMP
Yae-san told me that demon powers are attached to the spirit and not the body.
The person who took over Nii-san's body was using the power of a satori, so...

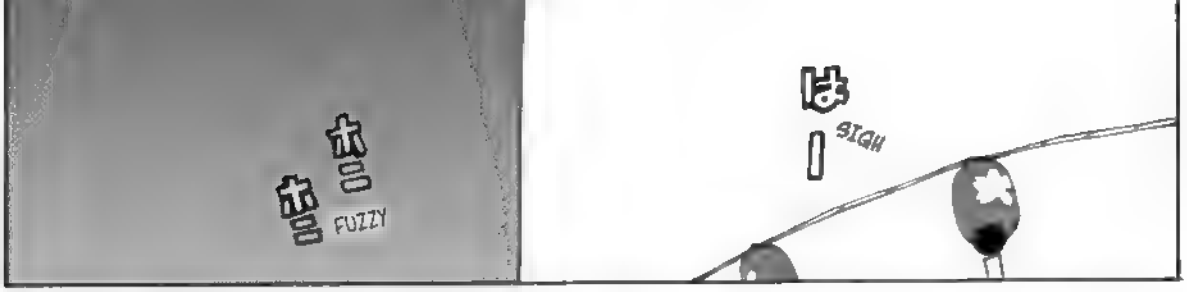
Nii-san...
SST
...is much stronger than I am.
If I get stronger, Nii-san will become much stronger, too.
STAMP
Then he can return to normal.
.....
Okay, done.
Mina-chan, Kana-chan, you two are the last ones.
Really?
See?
RING
RING

Huh? Oh, okay. Got it.
such a loud voice...
Hello?
Waaah! Ao, help me!
WHOOSH
It looks like Kotoha-chan is really busy.
BEEP
Since I'm done here...
...I'll go help Kotoha-chan.
Shinozuka-san...
you should visit our office someday, too!
See you!

Stronger, huh?
Let's go to the next one.
We have to hurry before it ends!
The second stamp is...
Oh, it's Shidou.
Oh.
You're...
I came to apologize for the other day...
Oh, no, please don't.
ぺったん STAMP

From what I saw...
HA HA HA HA!
I squeezed your arm, so let's just call it even.
.....
SQUEEZED
...you're the strongest person in this town.
Why don't you come out more?
Hee hee.
You're giving me too much credit.
STAMP
I'm not much help.
The ones who can protect the entire city are people like Hime-chan, Akina-kun, and everyone at the office.

So I would like strength to protect these two...
But, I am a guardian.
No, I have to go to the First pillar.
Should we go with you?
Okay, I'll go clean up.
.....
How harsh...
Although you're not that reliable!
BONK
Strength in this town...
Okay, let's go to the next one!
BOW
Shinozuka-san, I'll see you again!
I have to collect the desks there.


ホニ
ホニ FUZZY
はー SIGH

I'm so glad you came.
ホ～ニ
ホニ FUZZY
Kotoha-chan, you need to work, too.
Stop playing with my ears!
ぺたぺた STAMP

She's a half-demon, like me.

They get along so well.
……

We were both lucky.
There aren't many cases where you can survive after a demon drops you and you fall...
I've never met another one.
Oh, so you're a half-demon, too?
Lucky?

You're pretty simple-minded about it.

MUNCH まく
MUNCH まく
Akina's grand-father was there.
That was...
...good luck.
I like to believe that anything I don't do by choice is a matter of luck.
So I think falling was bad luck.

I thought the previous Hiizumi saved you, too.
Yeah. That was lucky.

So I thought I should stay in this town and become the bridge between humans and demons.
It's perfect because I'M both.
I feel it's more constructive to think that falling and causing people trouble isn't my fault.
CLAP
Oh, it's not like I'M criticizing you for leaving this town.
Don't get me wrong.
I see.
The people of this town are strong, in and of themselves.
And that's not all they have...
Really?

I have to go. We're cleaning the office today.
I'll see you again!
Yeah.
Kotoha-chan!
We should get going.
Oops.
I want to talk to you again.
Since we're both half-demons.
No problem.
Maybe we can go drinking.
I'm underage!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

Finally, the fourth... We're halfway done.
TMP
TMP
Oh, we're here.
Yeah.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

Oh, they're here.
Onii-chan, it's Shinozuka-san.
Yeah.
STAMP

I want to apolo-gize...
WHIP

Shidou-san called earlier.
Stamp our card! Stamp it!
I see.

You don't have to apologize!!
I said we're even.
STAND
Here, done.
Good luck with the rest.
STAND
Yeah!
I'm going back to the office.
Onii-chan, why don't you stay with Mina and Kana-chan?
CHAIR
Why?
To talk to Shinozuka-san about...
Oh, right.
?

When a bear appears, make loud noises.
Sheesh! I'm okay!!
You're embarrassing me!
See you, Onii-chan.
Yeah. Be careful.
I know.
Watch out for cars.
Go straight to the office.
I'm stronger than cars.
I know.
はらはら WORRIED
.....

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
Ah.
Akina-san!
Oh, Rin-chan.
Are you delivering food?

Yes! Why are you standing here? Let's go.
Um, sure...
Oh, Rin-chan.
STAMP
And Akina.

Bye!
.....
Yeah, thanks.
Just leave the bowls at the office.
See you!
I didn't get to eat lunch.
I'm starving.
Oh, thanks.
I brought you food!
Oh, okay.
Why don't you have one?
Here.
There are two.
CRACK
For what?
I didn't apologize.
What?
Um, Hime...

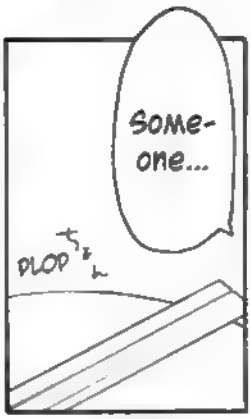
She so is...
I'm not mad anymore.
TURN
For not telling you about the Seven Pillars blooming.
Oh.
But I kept quiet about being a demon.
So we're even.
Oh, I already ate lunch.
Take it.
Sorry...
I'm so hungry.
STARE
A demon...
That was good.

But all the townspeople know that you're a demon now.
Yeah.
So, how is it going with them?
HMM...
SLURP
Hime!
Mayor!
Whoa!
THUD
I was worried about that.
Hey!
But actually, nothing's changed.
I don't really know why.
Well...

...to break down the barriers between demons and humans.
...Maybe because someone worked so hard...

Hey, Akina.

She didn't get it?
Who could it be?
Kotoha?


Some-one...
PLOP

...I...

Oh...
Does that change your feelings about me?

How do you feel now that you know I'm a demon?

FLINCH
Ah, there you are!
BUZZ
BUZZ
What are you doing, Akina? There's no one at the fifth pillar!
Oh.
.....
Sheesh!
I checked the roll call. I thought everyone was done. Sorry.
Oh, right.
Hime-sama.
Sorry about the...
Hello
Oh, Shinozuka-san.

...so, um...
...do you want to return to this town?
Um, we've talked about this with everyone...
CREAK
.....
We can minimize those threats in town.
You're only half-demon, yet you still face a lot of risks.
I have to go.
I'm supposed to shop for the party later.
We're having nabe.
Oh, okay.
Oh, a text.
It's Kotoha.
Yeah.
BEEP
.....
What do you think?
Excellent!
Ring tone

So think about it.
See you!
We don't need an answer immediately.
Okay, we'll help you shop!
We still have one more stamp to get.
Wow Pun!
It doesn't matter!

Mina and Kana,
the seventh pillar doesn't know they're not coming.
Oh, that's right. Let's go then.
Return to this town...?

The person at the seventh pillar is...

7

Sheesh, those girls.
Well, it's not like it's important.
Stamp
I got a message from the higher-ups in the district.
Oh, Akina.
I'm going home.
I'm only helping this one time, though.
It's okay.
I'm sorry.
Council...?
But you're the highest.
The higher-ups are scary, aren't they?
They want you to come to the Town Council.

Our goals are too different.
And I'm trying to resolve this by having humans and demons live together.
They're willing to sacrifice this town and every demon here to stop the blooming.
There's no point in going.
But on the subject of goals...
I can't take sides...
Well, I don't disagree with you.
Could it be...?
.....?!
Did you ever wonder where it came from?
Yeah.
The one Enjin was using?
It's about the demon barrier.
...let me tell you something.

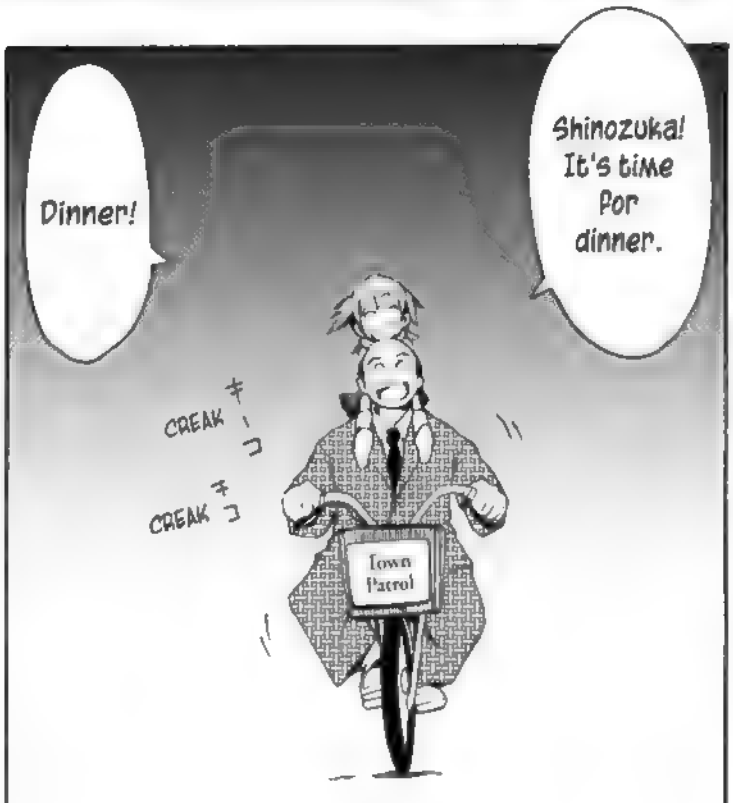
That's right.
The demon barrier...
was created by the Town Council.
...!
I can't believe they did that!
Even on this issue, not everyone's on your side.
It's set up in all the villages connected to this town.
I'm sure they won't activate it immediately, though.
But, do you understand?
Your goal of humans and demons living together lies at the end of a long, harsh road...
.....

Akina, can you walk that road through 'til the end?
That's right.
A thorny road.
.....

Talk it over with Hime and the others.

Well, ask the Town Council for details.
It won't do anyone any good if you all just glare at each other.
ぺたん STAMP
ぺた STAMP
ぺた STAMP

It involves the entire town, you know.
See you.
.....


Shinozuka! It's time for dinner.
Dinner!
CREAK キーコ
CREAK キコ
Town Patrol

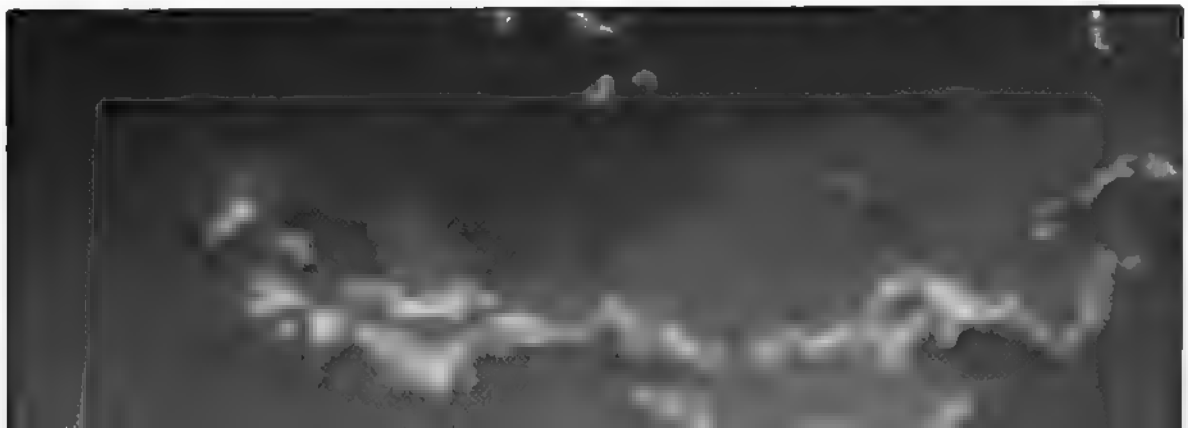
About what we discussed earlier...
Hey.
.....

CLOMP
I see.
She's been tagging along. Says it's training.
I'm hungry!
You're coming, too?!
Huh? Morino and Kohime?
They've been patrolling the town every day.
Your cell number...
Personal
090-xxxx-xxxx
About the offer...
Oh.
TURN
Here's my card.
Your card?
But I got it before.
Oh.
You're not moving back here?
...I'm thankful, but I'll pass.
I still owe a debt.
Besides, now I have a big job to take care of.
Job?

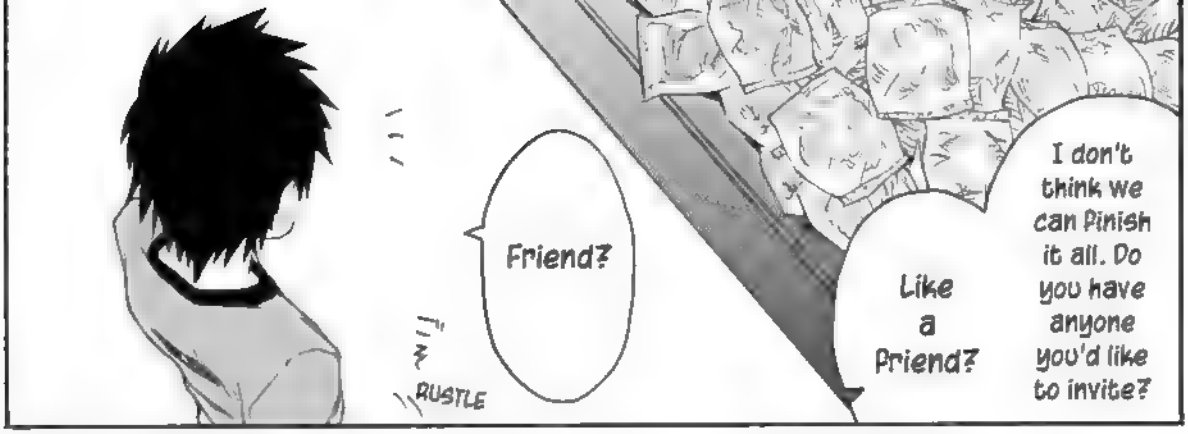
Got it.
I know I don't owe you guys, but I do owe your grandfather.
I'll make sure our town will help this town.

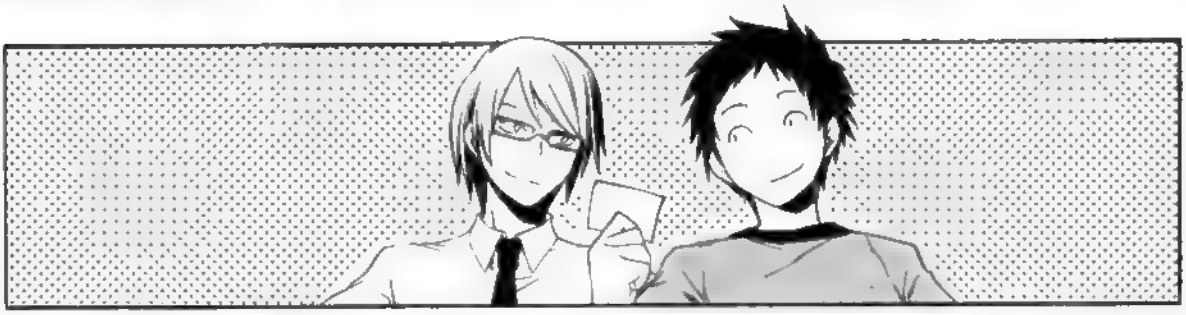
SHINOZUKA!
Is he a lonely guy?!
Or go shopping...
Or you can call me to have tea or something...

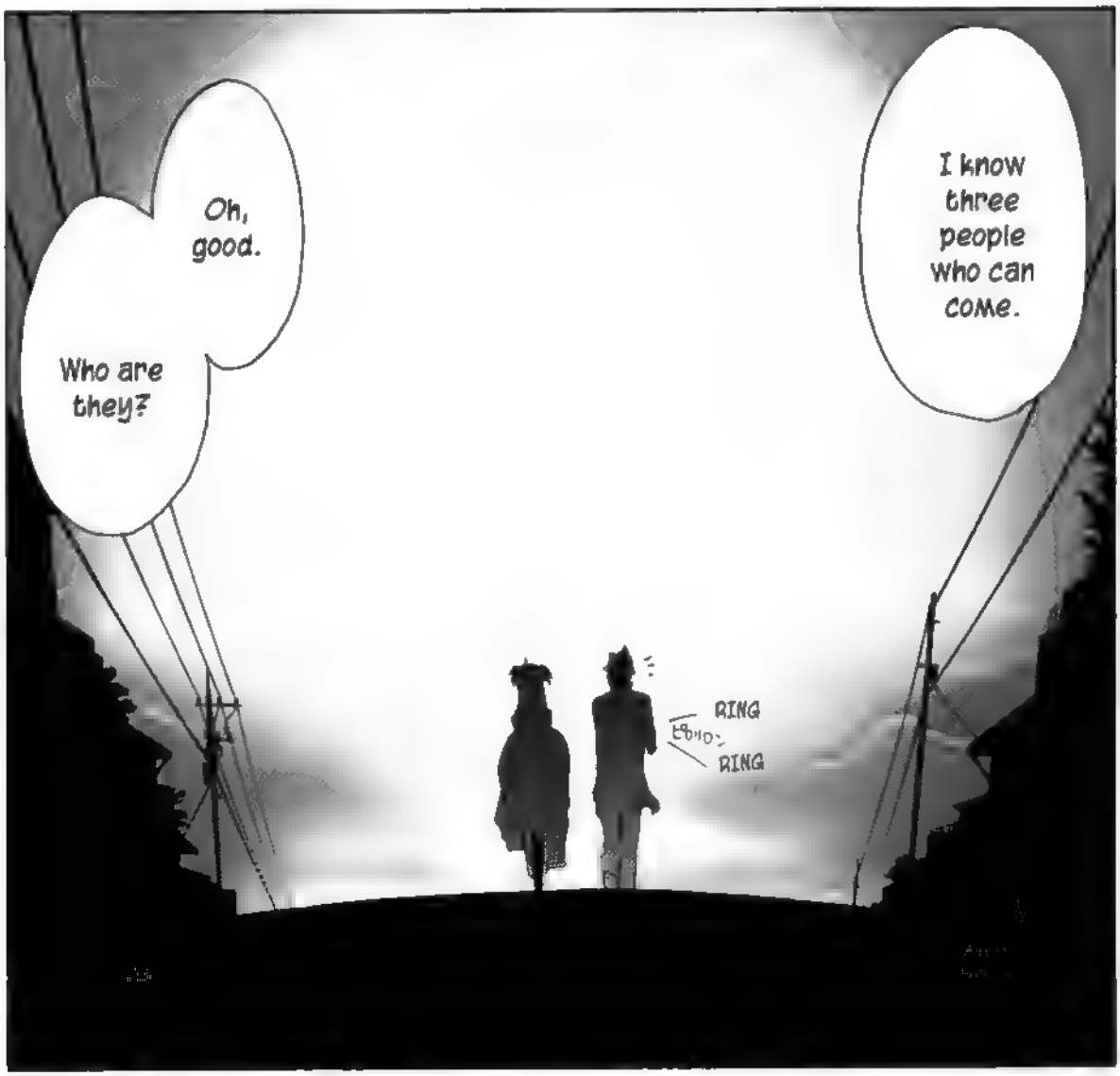
Thanks.
If anything comes up, call my phone. I'll try to help.

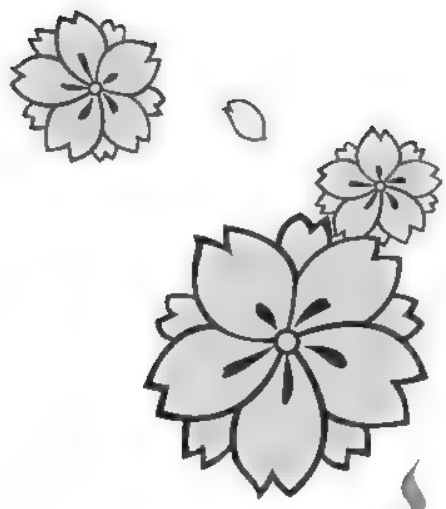


They weren't mad.
CREAK キコ CREAK キコ…
Yeah, but...
I have a hard time pacing them.
Shouldn't you have said hello to them?
Mayor?
We're back.
CLICK ガチャ
Oh, you're finally here!
UDON PARTY うどんパーティー
(Instead of nabe)
BUZZ ブー
I thought one person could easily eat six packs...
SLURP ずずず
Sorry.
100 udon packs
SHEESH! シーッ!
Hime bought too much udon. We've been trying to finish it all!
BUZZ ブー


I don't think we can finish it all. Do you have anyone you'd like to invite?
Like a friend?
Friend?
RUSTLE




I know three people who can come.
Oh, good.
Who are they?
RING
RING



Yozakura Quartet 4

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Age:	5
Hobbies:	Drinking different kinds of Japanese sake

Favorites

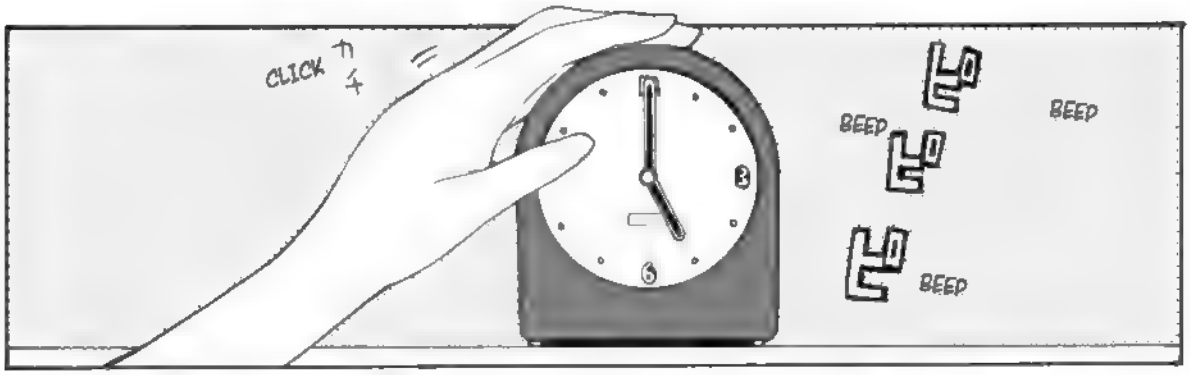
Food:	Japanese sake
Music:	Doesn't listen to any yet
Comedian:	Yasu-Kiyo
Uchi-P member:	Cameraman Tsuji
Little-known fact:	She grows when she is immersed in water

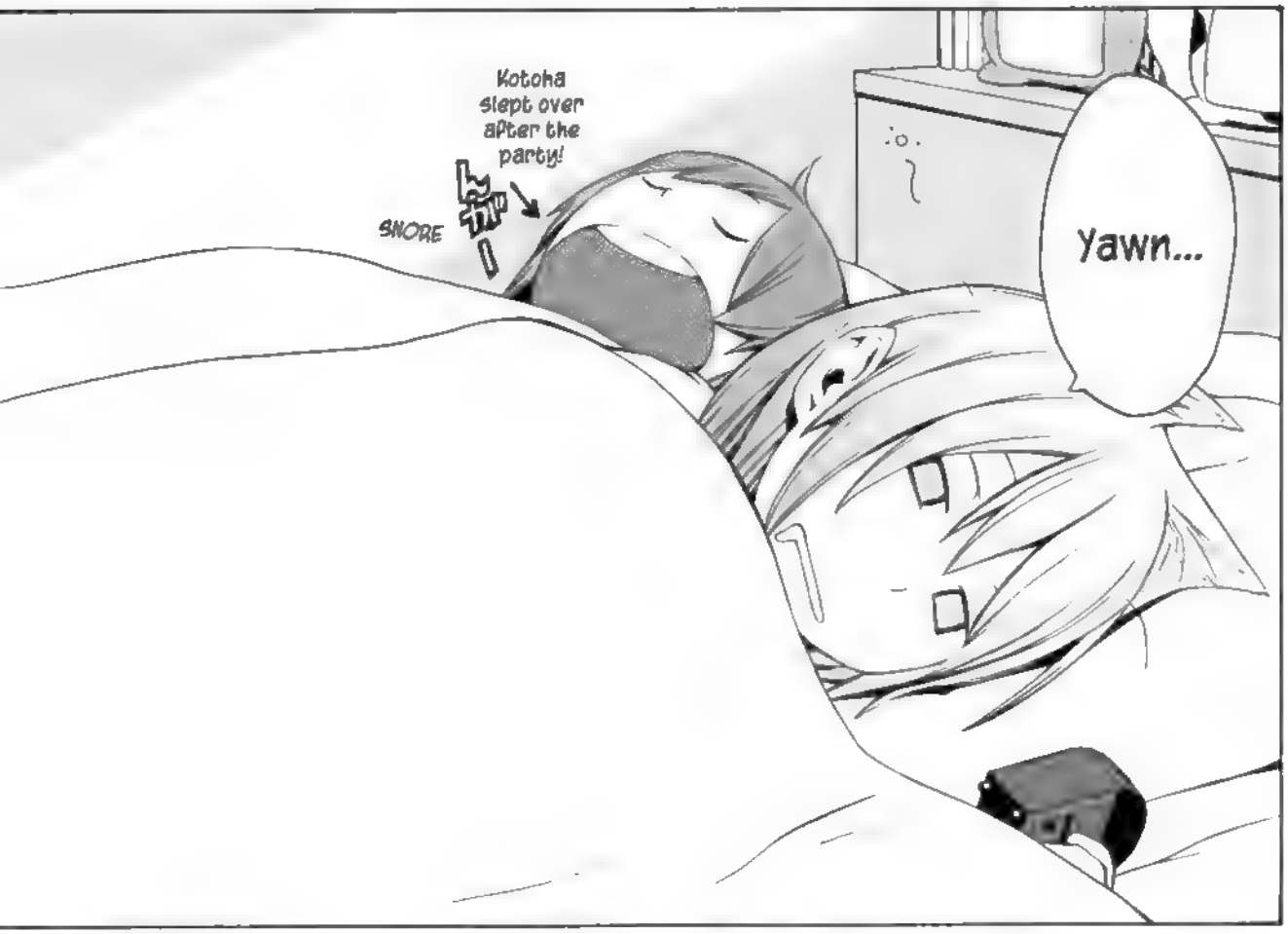
Age:	5
Hobbies:	Walking around town with Mina

Favorites

Food:	Tomatoes
Music:	Doesn't listen to any yet
Comedian:	Doesn't know
Uchi-P member:	Toku-chan
Little-known fact:	She grows when she is immersed in water

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP


CLICK
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP


Kotoha slept over after the party!
SNORE
Yawn...

ZZZ
PHEW.

BEEP
Zzzz...
Can't wake up early
WASH
WASH
More sleep...
ZZZ
MUFFLE
MUFFLE
CLICK
CLICK
GRIP
Yawn...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK

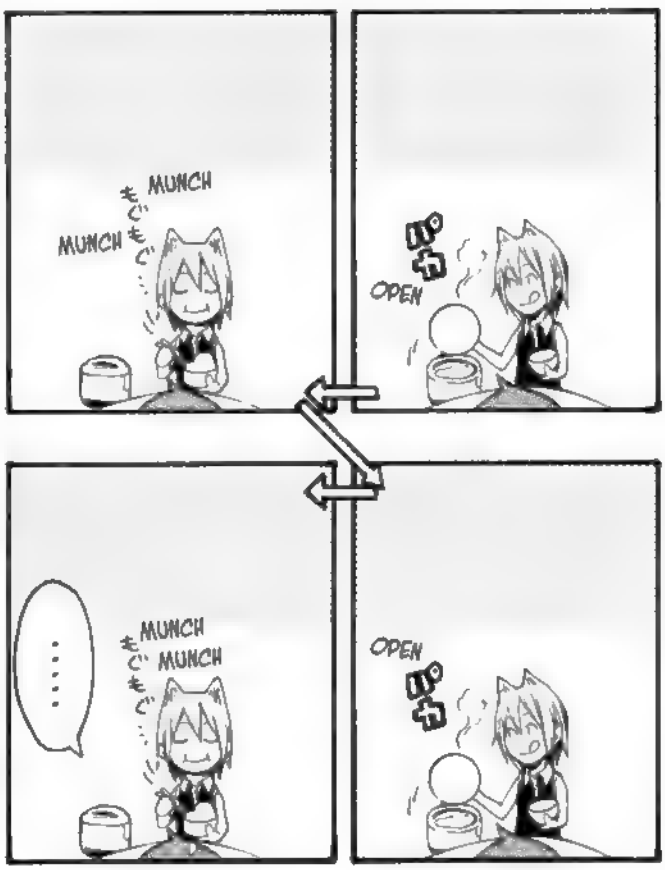
Kotoha-chan, you're going to be late for school.
Umm. Let me sleep one more day...
Can't wake up
But then it'll be Tuesday.
Freshly made rice...
GRIN
OPEN
SLIDE
Mmm, nice weather!

21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1)

Kotoha-chan, breakfast is ready.
Coming.
SPLASH
SPLASH
Wears fake glasses.
Puts in contacts.
I'm ready.
Let's eat.
Why doesn't she just wear real glasses?
Oh, what about your clothes?
You didn't bring any...
No problem.
Short-cut...
school uniform!
PLING
You're using your powers left and right, aren't you?

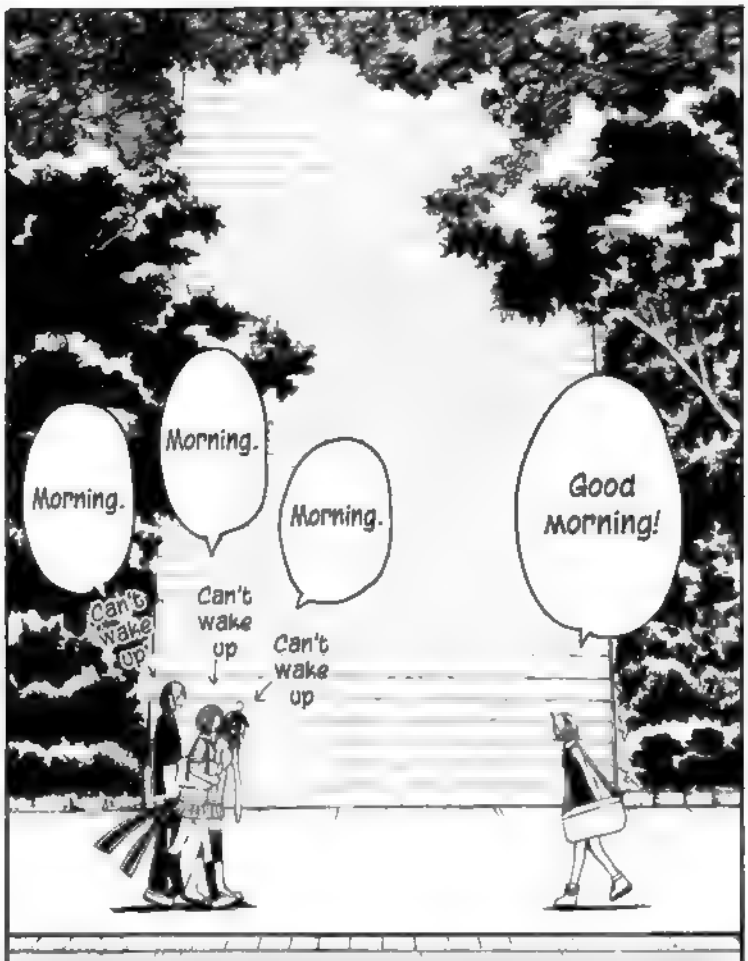
Bon appetite!
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH
Do you have work today?
Yeah.
So I'll see you later at the office.

Oops, I forgot...
Oh!
You need to eat other things, too!
You can't just eat rice!!


MUNCH
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
OPEN
.....
MUNCH
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
OPEN

Okay, I'm going.
Have fun!
Okay.
I'll see you later.
CLICK
Well, then...

Oh.
Phew.


Morning.
Morning.
Morning.
Good Morning!
Can't wake up!
Can't wake up
Can't wake up

Oh.

Onii-chan, have fun at work.
See you.
Okay.
Be careful.
Hime-sama, I'll see you after school.
LIFT
ひょい

Good morning.
Good morning.
I can still smell the nabe from last night.
Can't wake up
Good morning.
Okay.
SLIDE
It's a nice day today.
Let's open the window.
HM?
Hey, Kyosuke.

I can't work there.
Kyo-chan, would you like some tea?
I guess that's true.
The community center has been taken over by the elderly.
Although I don't mind you being here.
Why don't you make space for your office at the community center?
Do your work!
What is it?
GRIN
ニヤリ
Ooh.
Oh.
Well, it's okay.
This way I can contact Hime easily.
Oh!

I made lunch today.
Hope you like it!
Eat up!
Okay.
We should eat lunch.
Oh, it's lunchtime already?
Then let's order something...
Bon appetite!
It's good... It's good, but...
MUNCH
Yeah, it's good.
It's good.
I wish Touka's food was this good.
Yes.
Touka-chan's food is good in its own way.
How many cups did you make?
...there's so much rice!
Oh, hee hee.
I'll eat most of it...

Lunch break
CLICK
CLICK
SNORE
DASH!
RING
RING
Hello?
Oh, hi.
Sure.
Okay.
GLANCE
GLANCE
Sure, I'll have it by tomorrow.
Okay. Later!
CLICK
Was that Juri-san?
Yeah.
She wanted the latest list of residents.

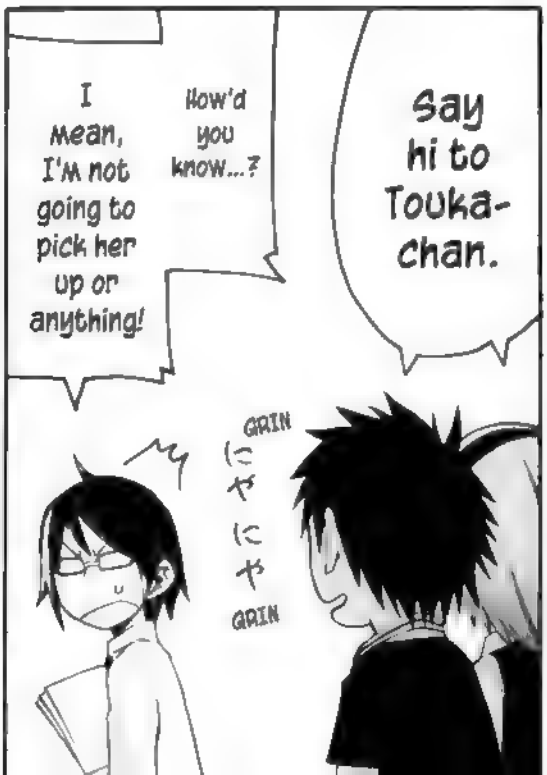
Then...
Let's get to work on it.
Okay.
CLICK
If there were one more demon doctor, Juri-san could work less...
SAVING

Don't touch me!
It's hot!
Oh, thanks.
That helps.
MASSAGE
MASSAGE
I don't have any rush jobs right now.
POINK
Mm.
I'll help.

Okay, done.
Me, too.
Me, too.

We finished pretty fast.
Okay...
YOINK

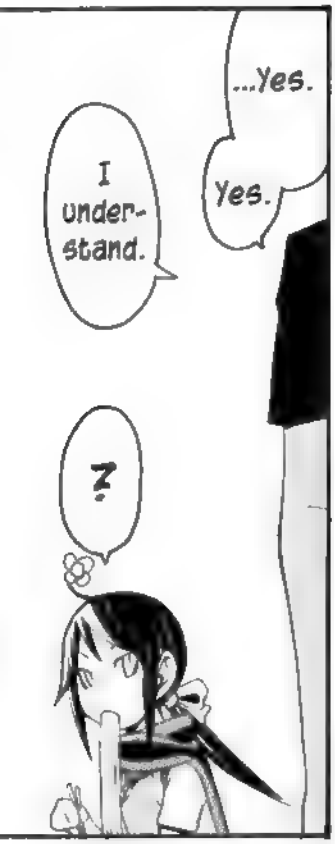
I'll go give this to Juri-san.
I need to go that way anyway.
Oh, thanks!


Say hi to Touka-chan.
How'd you know...?
I mean, I'M not going to pick her up or anything!
GRIN
にやにや
GRIN

Well...

See you!
...I might... bump into her, maybe.
Okay.
What shall we do next?
That's it for today.
So you can do what you want, now.
Okay.
Writing Test
3
Give complete answers!
We didn't order anything.
Even though it's snack time...
That means...
?
Huh?
Hello, food's here.
DING
DONG

But if I eat there, I'd wind up getting endless refills. Seconds and thirds...
An odd reason...
RING RING
TA-DAH!
Yes!
I ordered!!
Hime is here!
I knew it!
Eat at the restaurant!

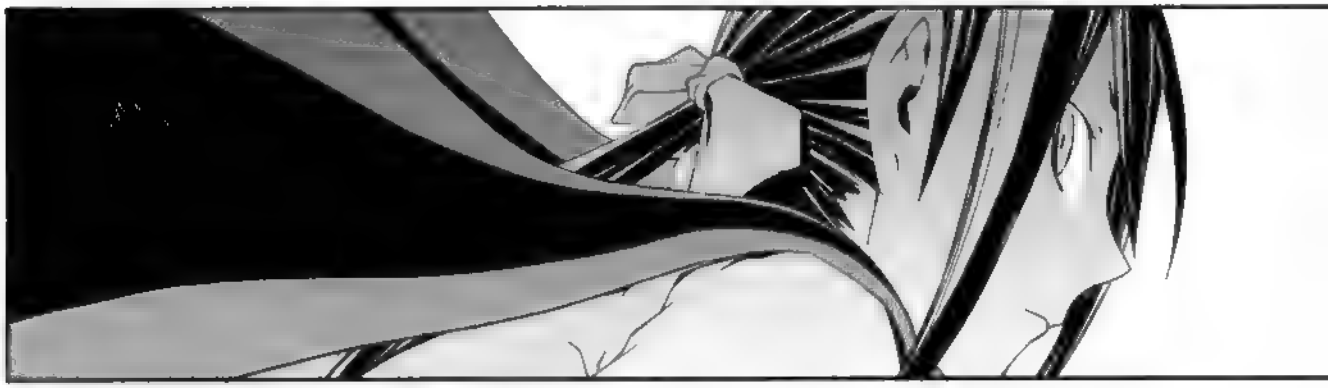

...Yes.
Yes.
I understand.
?

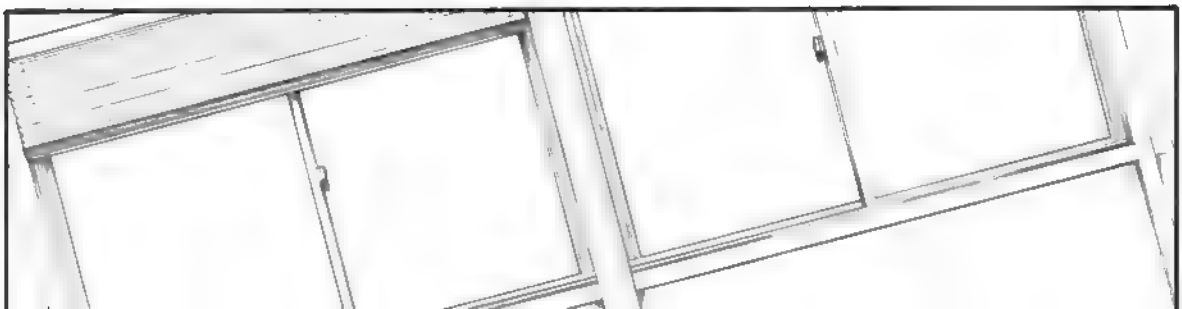
Yes, hello?
Hiizumi Life Counseling...
CLICK

I'm still eating...
Whaaat?
What?
NOOOOOO!
The Town Council.
DRAG
DRAG

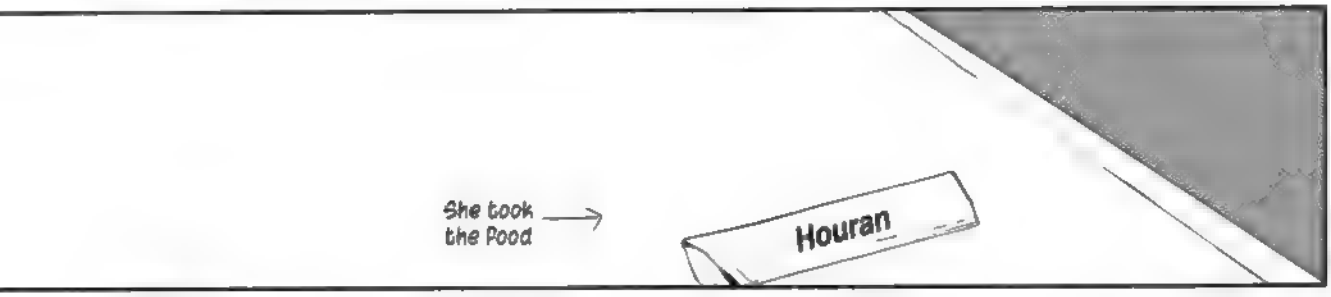
We're going.
GRAB

What's up?
CLICK





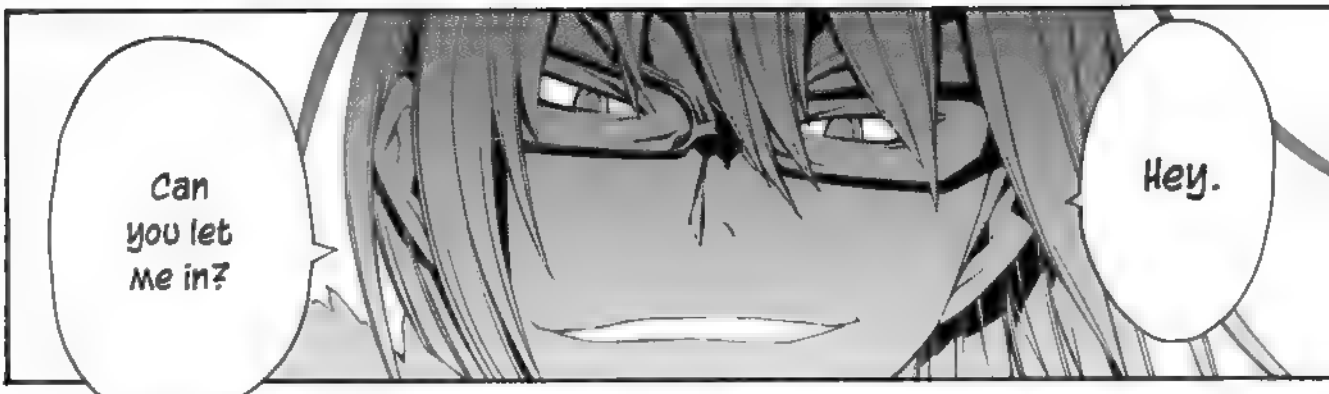
They left.
ALONE


She took the Pood
Houran

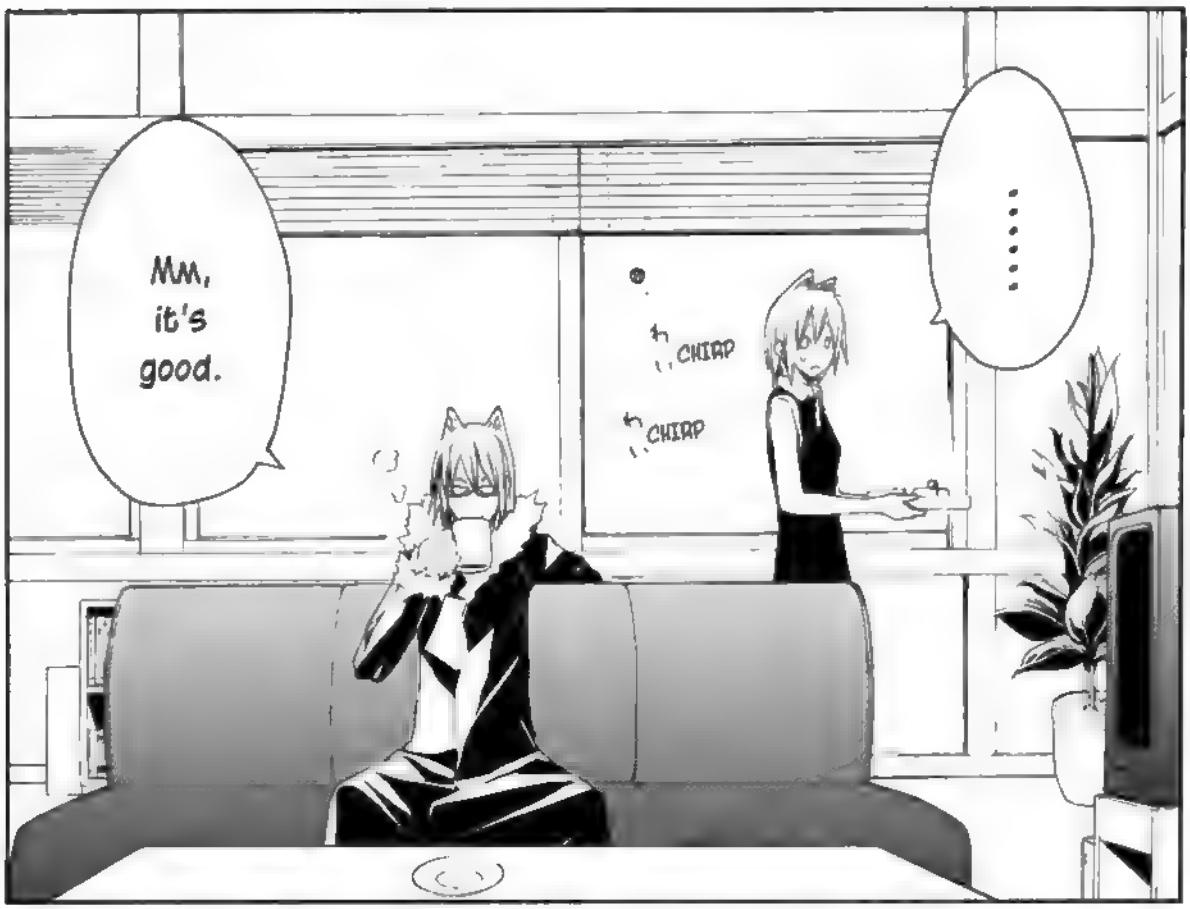
The director is out right now...
CLICK

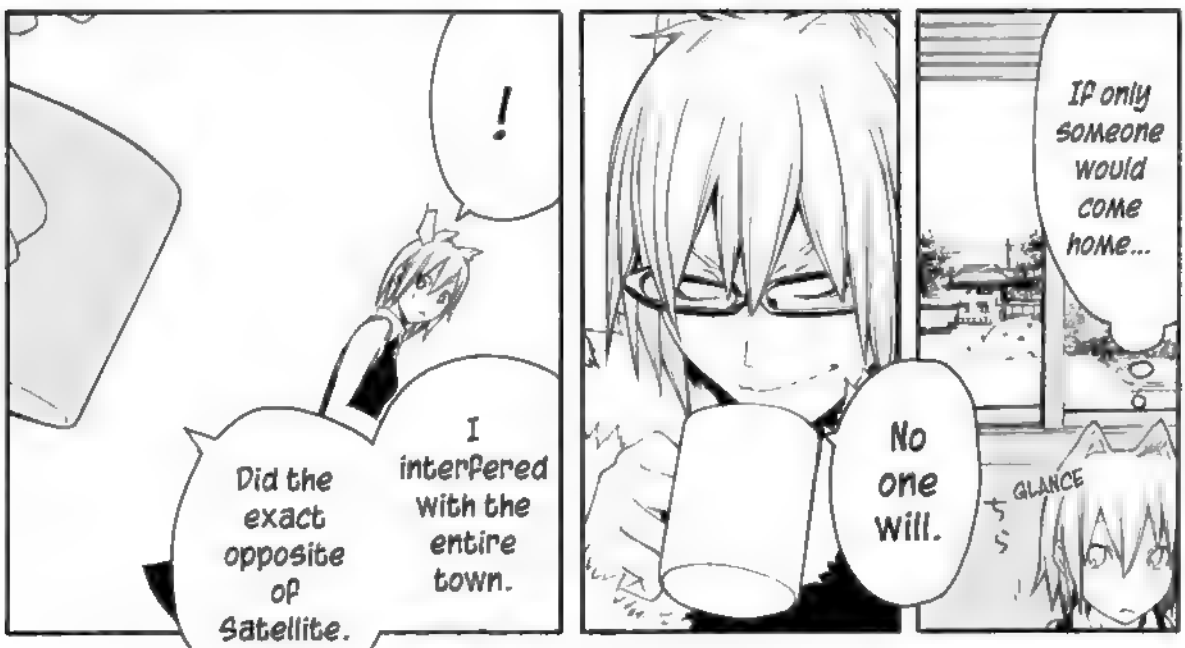
Coming!
It's so busy today.
TROT
TROT

I guess I should study, then.
DING
DONG


Hey.
Can you let me in?

I just came to talk.
If you're good, I won't do anything.
PUSH
DASH
THUD
Urgh!


Mm, it's good.
.....
CHIRP
CHIRP


!
I interfered with the entire town.
Did the exact opposite of Satellite.
No one will.
If only someone would come home...
GLANCE

Right now, the townspeople won't think about...
...or even see this office.
A satori's power is handy.
It guarantees privacy.
.....
Then this one.
Cheese-cake was... Nii-san's favorite...
.....
Oh, those cakes look good.
You can only have one!
The other is for me.
Oh.
SAT

But sheesh.
It's so quiet here, even though the world might collapse.
CHIRP
CHIRP
The people of this town... and this office...
.....
.....
Do they think everything will be fine just because they believe so?
That's...
THUNK
Humph. You don't talk much.
THUNK

KNOCK
KNOCK
I guess some of his spirit is still left.
.....
...the way Nii-san...
...cut his cakes.
Huh?
Really?
KNOCK
KNOCK
GRIN
I thought I'd gotten rid of him completely.
.....
CLENCH
SST
If that's the case...

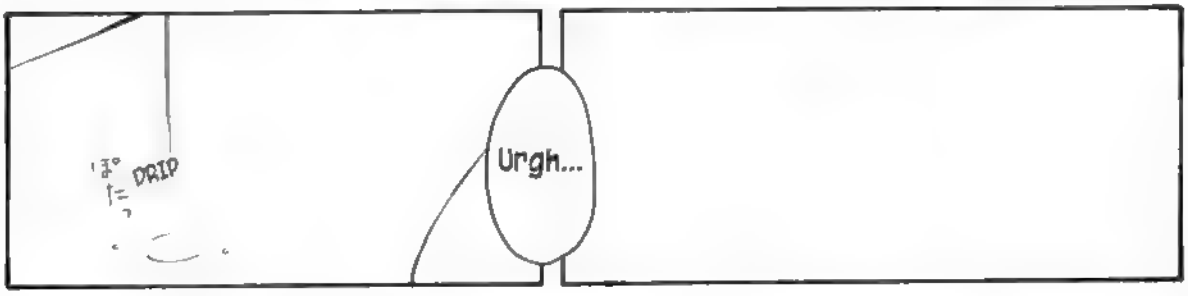
...I should...
...Make sure he's gone...

GRIP
What's wrong?
Stab me.
Er...

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
If you can't do it...
...Maybe I'll take your body.
Ugh...
You're a satori, too.
TWITCH

Come on.
Stab me.
Come on!
.....
000
SST
THUD
OW.
I didn't come to pick on you.
If Hiizumi's not here, then this was a waste of time.
SST
Just kidding.

I'll come again.
See you.
THUMP
.....


DRIP
Urgh...

He knows I can't do it.
He's so mean...
DRIP
DRIP
SNIFF
SNIFF
I should clean up...
CLINK
CLINK

Oh.
OFFICE
Now then.
.....
You knew?
I didn't expect to be able to interfere with a town a land god protects.
So you knew I would come, and you didn't do anything?
You're not taking me seriously.
I'm not. You can only watch over them, right?
I'm not going to bother with someone who won't get in the way.
I see.
But... if you keep making them cry...
WOOSH

SWING
...then that's different.
CHINK
My claws...
will reach my target, no matter how far.
.....
How scary.

Okay, time to work!
まにゃー!
HELLO
...Huh?

What's wrong? You look down.
.....

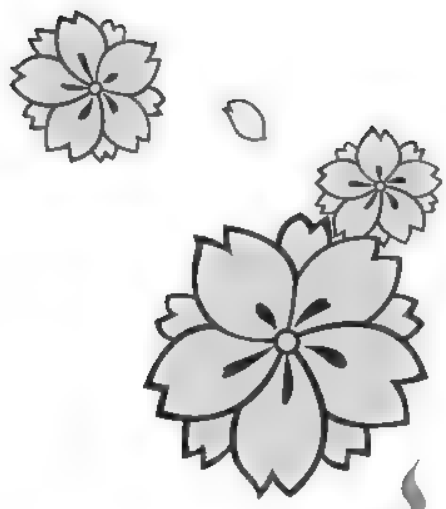
?

Uh...
Nothing.
It's nothing...

きゅう
HUG
Huh ?
What ?!

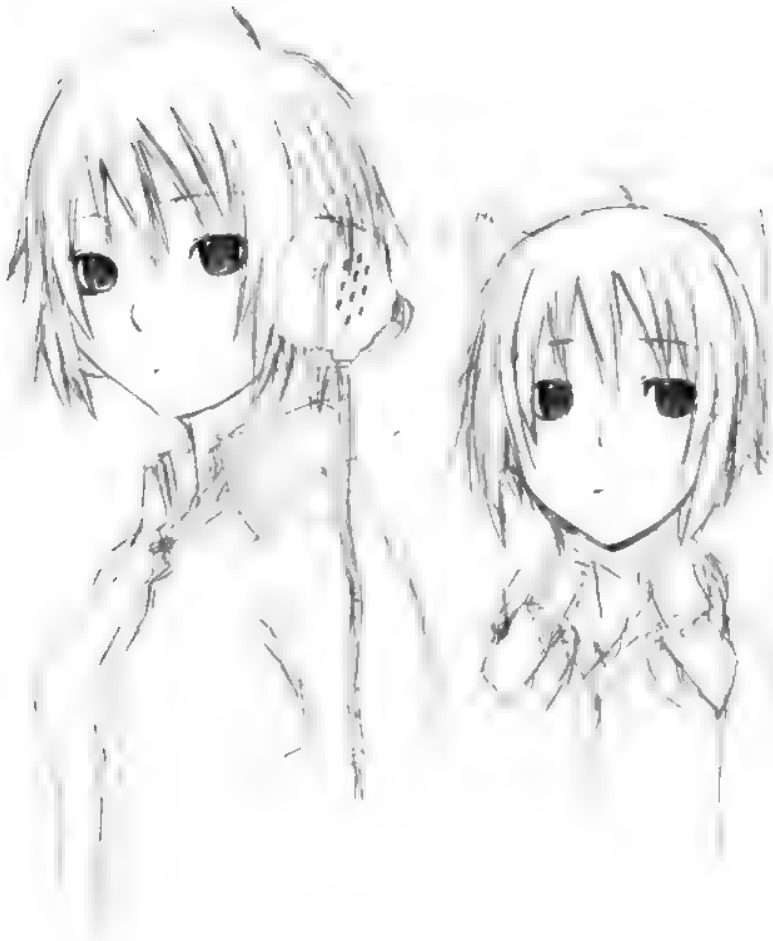
If you eat something good, you'll feel better!
Huh?
I don't get it, but let's go eat something!
Okay!
That's two days in a row...
And after that, I'll sleep over again!!

21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1) END



Yozakura Quartet 4

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet



These are the earliest sketches of Ao. It was still a story about music back then.

Actually...
I'm jealous.
Their straightforwardness and their youth...
These are things we don't have anymore.
.....
Being young and being naïve are different things.
Well, that's true, but...

Shall we go?
They're here.
KNOCK
KNOCK

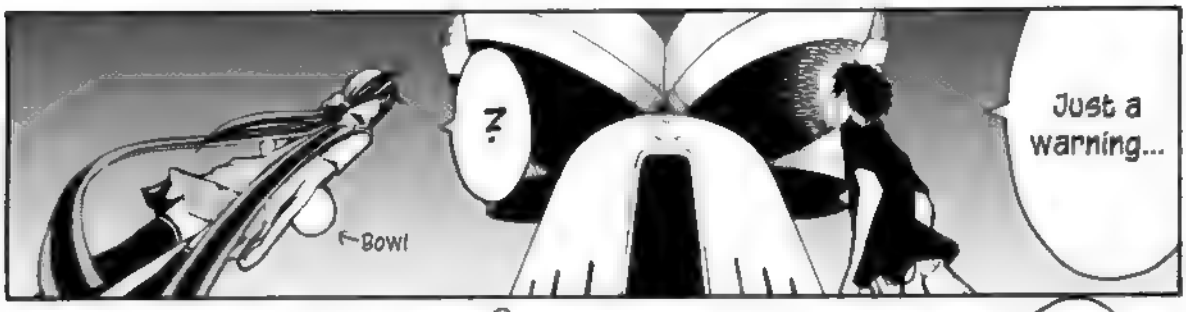
Shidare.
An impossible ideal is no longer an ideal.
It's just a delusion.
Yes.

So it's our duty to make him understand.
CLOMP
CLOMP
He still doesn't understand that.
.....
No one else can do it.
WOOSH
Let us begin.

Council...
is now in session.

22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2)

Hime.
Yes?


?
Just a warning...
←Bow!

.....
ZWISH
Don't lose your temper!

Already upset →
He thinks I'm short-tempered or something...

...I haven't been to the Town Council since I became Mayor.
But...
Hm.

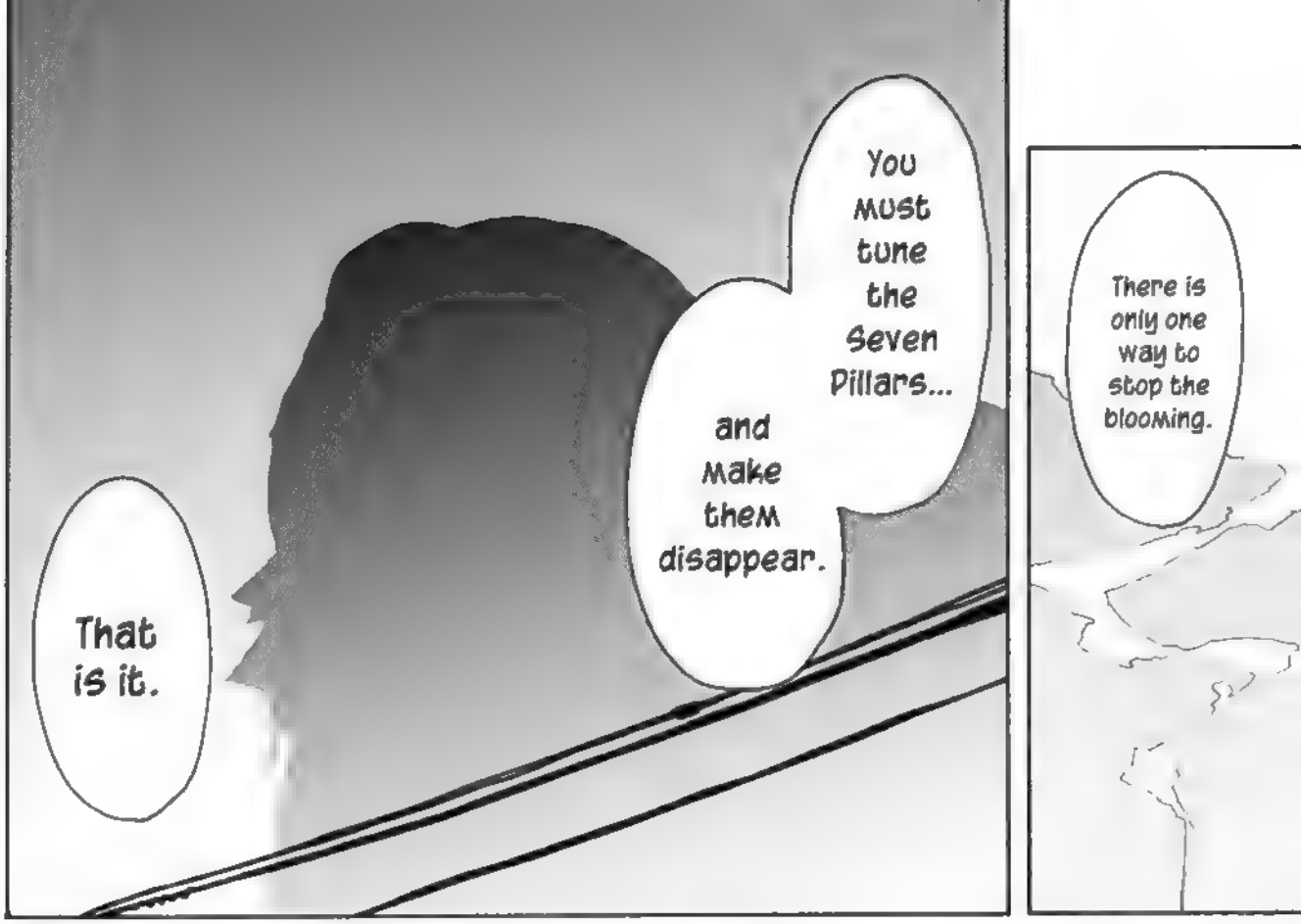
No problem.
Let's skip the formalities.
Thank you for coming.
First things first...

I'll get to the point.
The demon barrier.
I want an explanation!
SLAM
.....

First of all...

...I need to make something clear.

This world is not for demons.
It exists for us humans.
GRR!
No.
...is the blooming of the Seven Pillars. We need to stop the two worlds from integrating.
Do you have any objections to that?
Our biggest concern...
KONK
Why did you create such a thing?
That's not an answer.
Don't lose it.
MMP! Pgh.
CLOMP


That is it.
You must tune the Seven Pillars...
and make them disappear.
There is only one way to stop the blooming.

If I could do that, we wouldn't be having this conversation.

With my level of power, tuning one pillar would cause my whole body to go to the other side.
Tuning has consequences. The one doing the tuning could be cast out of this dimension.
GRIP
グッ…

There's no way I can tune all seven.
You understand, right?
That's why I prepared the demon barrier.
So you don't have to sacrifice yourself.
You can use the demon powers of those living in your town.
What?!
Of course I'm not going to allow that!
MMFF
Don't lose it.
I can't sacrifice the demons.
There's another way.
.....

Tune the demons...
All of them.
Don't leave even one.
If demons ceased to exist in this world, I assume the integration would be stopped.
You assume?
But I do...
Demons are foreign to this world.
You have no grounds for that assumption.
I believe...
that the presence of the demons in this world...
...is poisonous!
WONK

CLENCH
.....
I don't give a damn about being the oyakume!
When I don't know what the Afterworld is like.
...am not going to tune reckless-ly...
I...
.....
...?
He refused to take advantage of them...
His ancestors prepared the demon sacrifices known as "the Seven Pillars."
He hardly tuned, either.
HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE
Your grand-father, Makiharu, was like that, too.

You guys knew that Enyou...
...was forced to be sacrificed?
Of course.
Wait a second.
Then why didn't you tell me?
.....
.....
PHOO

Why don't you...
...practice by tuning that girl right there...?
GRR!
Because your tuning would've been affected.
That's why.
...!
This would be a good opportunity.

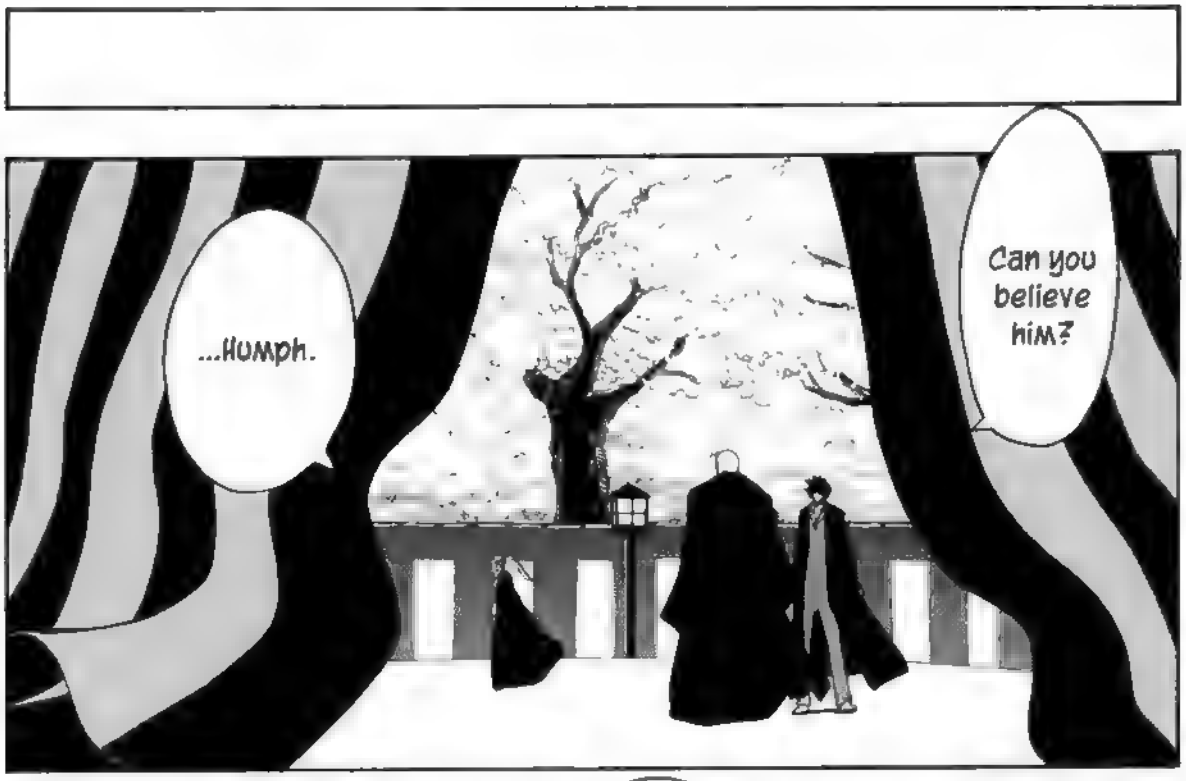
CRUSH
SHUT UP!
Don't...
CRACKLE
"Poisonous" ?!
You tell me which side is poisonous?!
I'm trying to work with you here, and that's what you're saying!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

It doesn't matter if you're human.
CRACKLE
I'll send you guys off first!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
.....
CRACKLE
GRAB
CRACKLE
Akina!
No!!
CRACKLE
You told me not to lose it, but you're losing your temper!
AKINA!
Stop !!

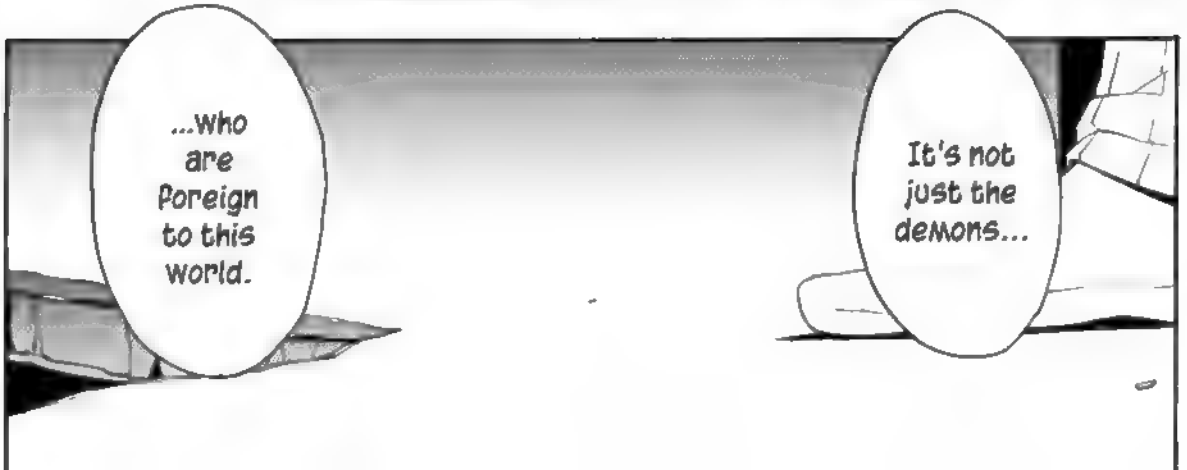
.....
SST
We're leaving.
Hold it.
You said earlier that you don't know...
What it's like on the other side.
But...

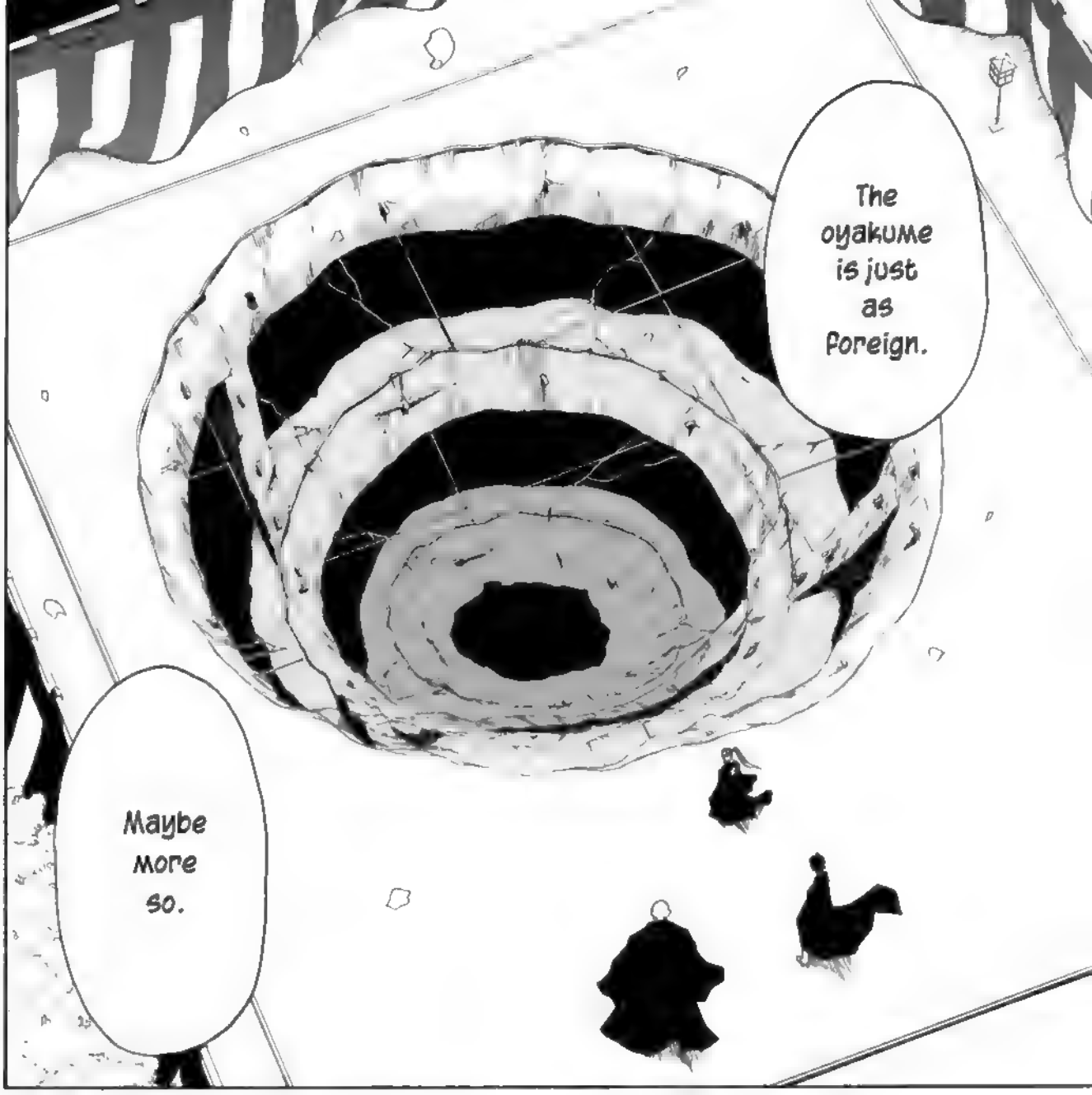
...let's say that living in this town is 80 percent good...
Maybe living in the Afterworld is 100 percent good for the demons?
Did you ever think of that possibility?
...
If that's the case, I know what to do.
tug
If the Afterworld is 100 percent good...
...I'll make this town 120 percent better.
That's how I deal with things!


...Humph.
Can you believe him?

.....
...When he used to run the office.

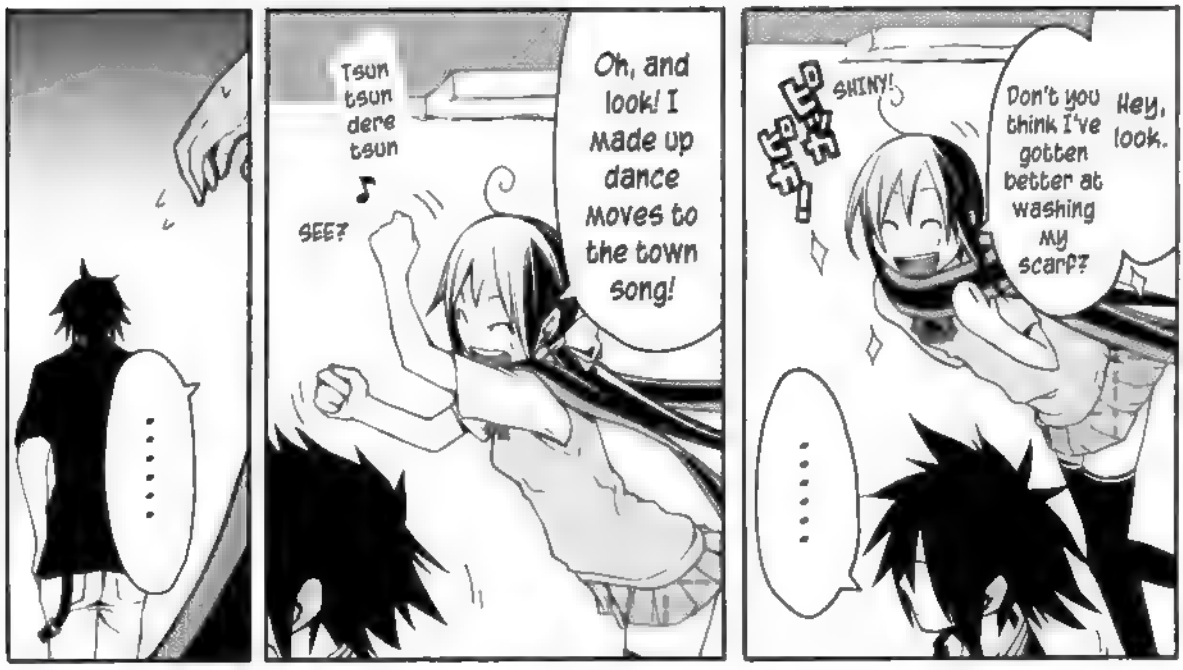
He really is the same.
Just like Makiharu-san...


...Who are foreign to this world.
It's not just the demons...

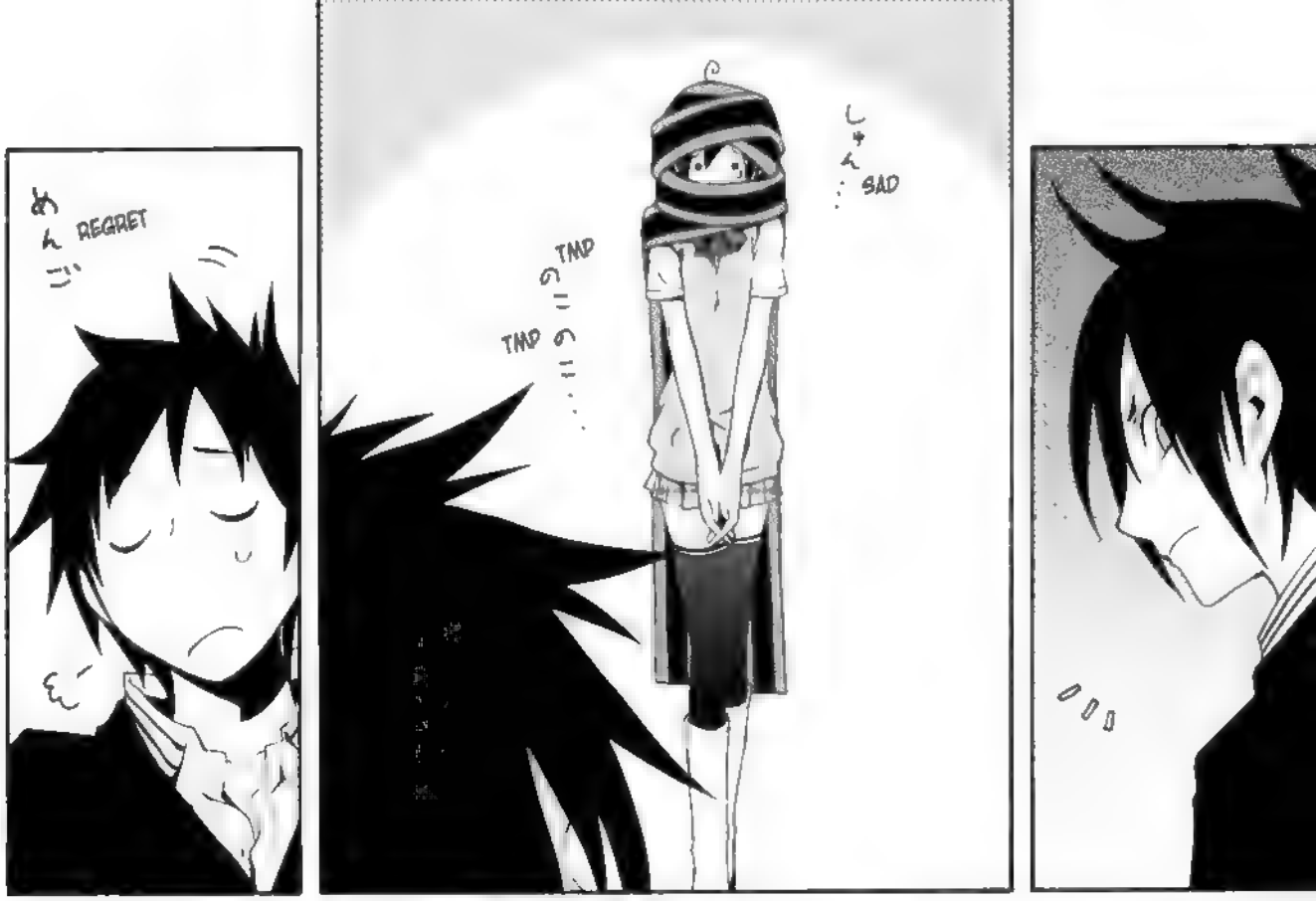

The oyakume is just as foreign.
Maybe more so.

TMP
TMP

TMP
.....
TMP
TMP


.....
Tsun tsun dere tsun
SEE?
Oh, and look! I made up dance moves to the town song!
.....
SHINY!
Don't you think I've gotten better at washing my scarf?
Hey, look.

Mm...
YANK
Oh, Akina...
You're hurt...

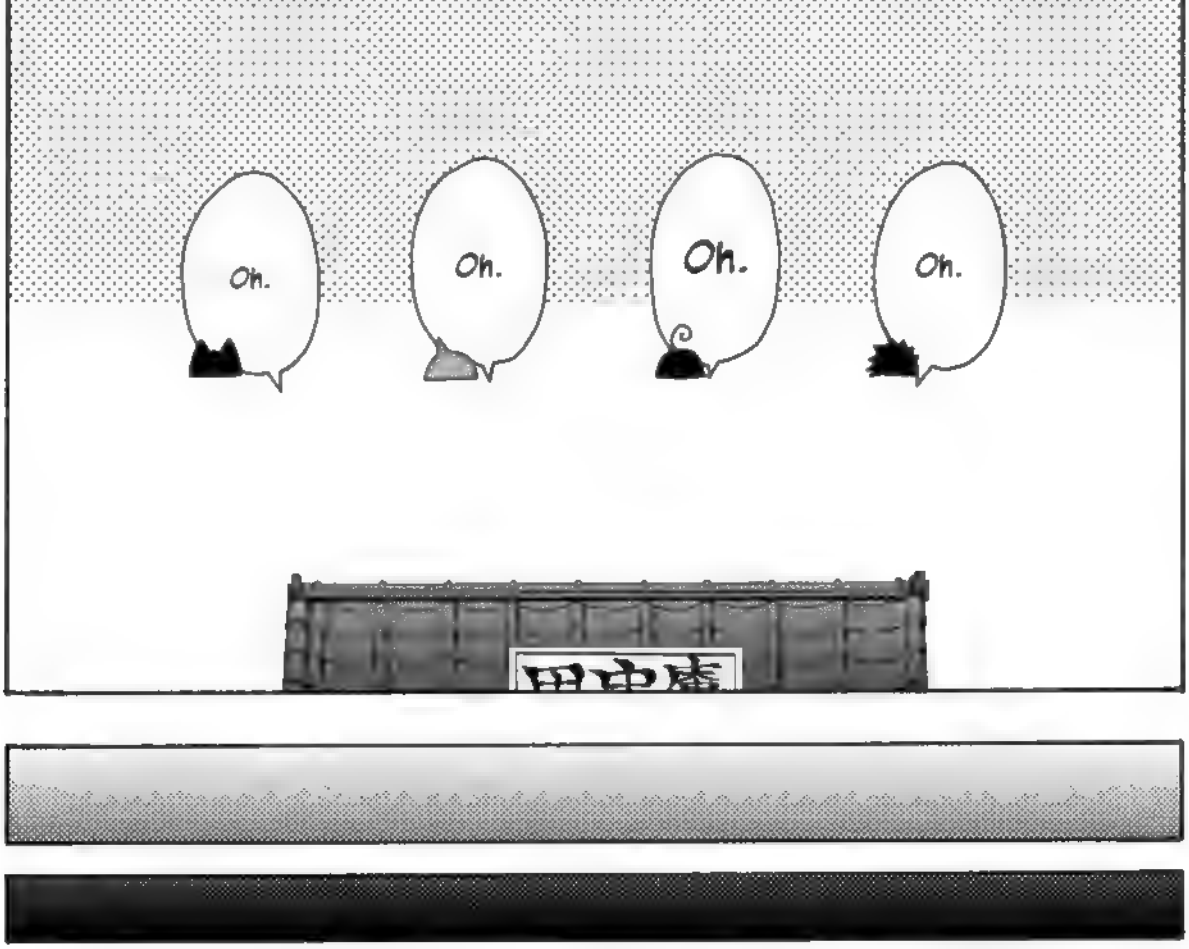

めんご
REGRET
しょん
SAD
TMD
TMD

I'm hungry.
Let's go eat something.
Oh...
Okay!

But the thing is...
...despite what I said, if someone asked for a different idea, I don't have one yet.
Oh. HMM...

Enjin, huh?
TMP
If we make him talk, maybe we can figure out something!
...Yeah.
I know. How about Enjin?
Hey, Akina.
Do you feel bad about Enyou's family because they were sacrificed by force?
Well, if I thought of it as just something my ancestors did, not related to me, it would be easier.
But I can't think that way.
.....

I'll find a way!
I'll be like your grandfather!
Please don't.
Don't worry! We'll find a way!
If we all think together, we'll figure it out!
SLAM
You think?
Oh well.
Let's find something good to eat.
Yeah!
I've been eating ramen a lot lately, so I miss soba...
SLIDE
I want soba!
If we eat something good, we'll feel better!
That's a good idea!
Sure thing.


Oh.
Oh.
Oh.
Oh.
田中庵

I
see.

I'll do it!
Sure.
.....
That's why I called you guys.
.....
But, don't you need demon powers in addition to a Hiizumi's body to make the Seven Pillars bloom?
The demons here...
are strong, you know.

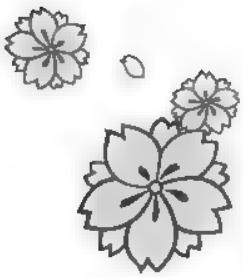
All of you here are powerful up against specific demons.
In a sense...
each of you is one demon's nemesis.
That's why you're demon hunters.

Well...
...if the worlds were to integrate, then this world would be filled with demons.
SHISH

SST
We'd like that, so we're in.
This world would become one big hunting ground...
...when everything is over...
...can we hunt you, too?
SHINK
.....
FOOSH
But...

If you can manage it.
...
Oh, how nice.
Because none of us...
like you at all.
That's good.
Because...

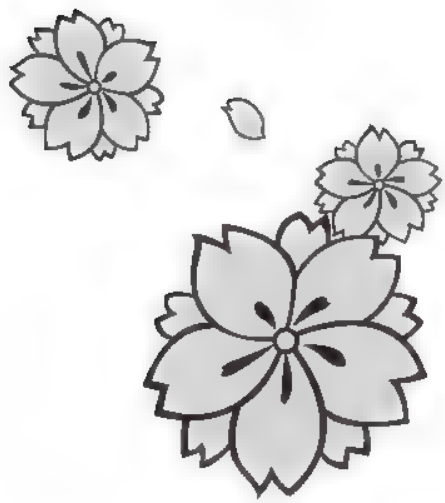
...I hate all of you, too.



22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2) END

To be Continued .....

Yozakura Quartet 5



Monthly Shonen Sirius May 2007 issue cover

Monthly Shonen Sirius November 2007 issue cover

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

This isn't Hime!
She's saying something that makes sense.
I do so take care of my health!!
Whoa!
Eating only soba is not good for you...
SOBA

YOZAQ!
よざかし!
YOZAK
I'M back.
ガラガラ SLIDE
Whoaz!
What z!
A robber came in.
じ SNIFF
す
じ SNIFF
す
What are you doing?
KICK じ た
KICK ば た
Urgh... Akina-kun...
じ KICK
た
ば KICK
た
Oh no! We need to call the police!
No don't!
I'm unable me. z z z

I need you to keep quiet for one...no, maybe two or three more hours.
Maybe at least half a day!
You're going to take that long?!
FIDGET
もた
FIDGET
もた

Take that! I'll tie you up!
Whoa!
I won't go down easily!
はっ
WOOSH

I'm going to need a little bit longer!
もた
FIDGET
もた
FIDGET
Phantom Thief Mariabell
What?
You're still here?!

ガシ
GRAB
I'll catch you myself...

RELEASE
Oh, sorry.
.....
BLUSH
Hm, I guess there's another criminal here, too.
?
To steal a heart from a phantom thief...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
She started saying some-thing weird.
What's up with her?!
BOO
BOO
There's favoritism there!!
Rejected.
How's this?
WRITE
WRITE

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

I thought of it now!
This isn't Kotoha!
she's scared of mice
Earth Crushing Bomb!!
I do short-cuts!
And her birthday is September 3rd.

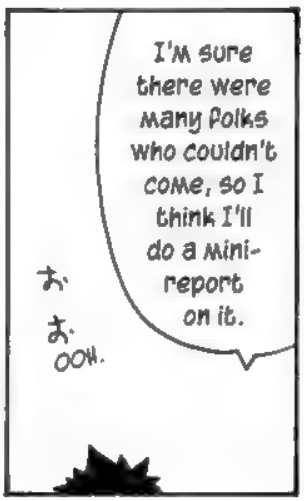
Bonus Manga

Hello. Thank you for buying Yozakura Quartet volume 4!
This is the bonus manga, which follows the weird manga.
Thank you!

But I can't say anything yet, so please check volume 5 for more information...
OH.

So... I think everyone knows this, but Yozakura Quartet is going to become an anime!
YAY!

9/30: the day of the signing
CLICK
HOUSE


I'M sure there were many folks who couldn't come, so I think I'll do a mini-report on it.
OOH.

(SHIN-WA DINING)
...I did a signing when volume 3 came out.
You did.
SASHIMI IS GOOD.

Anyway...
SPRING

It was like someone was pouring buckets of water on us.
SPLASH!
It was a day with record-breaking thunder-storms.
This is the area.
OH.
TORA
They have signings almost every week, so the staff is used to it and everyone was very efficient.
We had the signing at the Akihabara Tora no Ana.
CLOMP
CLOMP
Oh, okay.
Shall we check the signing area?
TORA
(Sob) I don't think anyone's coming in this weather.
Waiting Room
Don't worry!
EDITOR
And after getting excited for a while...
It's like a wedding or something!
Tanaka
And... what?! Flowers?!
It's huge!!
And clean!
Whoa!
EDITOR

I never get to do these things, so I had a lot of fun.
The signing was for an autograph, plus one character (requested by all customer)
Thank you so much...
TEAR
Even though it was crazy weather, 111 out of the 120 people who got tickets showed up.
EDITOR
Nervous
Hello, everyone...
EDITOR
...it started without any problems.
CLAP
CLAP
Incident ②
The most popular, in order, were: Hime, Ao, Kotoha, and Yae.
That's a lot.
Yae-san was very popular.
Can you draw Yae-san?
Incident ①
We got this question about five times.
Are you the writer?
Readers thought we were a pair.
Uh, no...
EDITOR
Trying not to laugh.
I think it's more work than what I usually do in a day.
But drawing over 100 autographs was pretty tiring.
Because you never get to talk to readers directly.
So it was like that. It was fun.
Afterward, everyone was introducing themselves and it was funny.
Oh, I buy your comics.
Hello, I'm...
Incident ③
Many friends came to ~~leave~~ visit me.
Not all at once though.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

We won't announce it in this issue.
Huh?
EDITOR
What should we do about announcing the signing?
When we were discussing the 8/26 Sirius issue...
Oh.
EDITOR
The time line was...
8/26 Sirius October issue
9/21 Yozakura 3
9/26 Sirius November issue
9/30 Signing
True.
...like this.
Oh, there's one thing...
I need to apologize about...
?
Oh?
Ooh.
I heard they ran out of tickets for the singing this morning.
EDITOR
9.21
VOLUME 3'S RELEASE DATE
RING RING
So we announced it on 9/15 on my blog.
I guess so.
There's over a month until the signing. Everyone will forget, so we can announce it right beforehand on 9/26.
EDITOR
?
That's not good!
I didn't think so many people would want to come.
But I guess they did.
I'm really sorry.
EDITOR
And the people who find out about it in the next Sirius issue can't get any either?
THAT MEANS...
The people who don't find out about this 'til the afternoon can't get any?
Oh...

But we're going to do another signing then.
Volume 4 came out in April instead of February because of the announcement of the anime.
I'm sorry about that, too.
To match the anime, volume 5 came out in August, and volume 6 will come out in December.
Oh!
Speaking of next time...
Don't mind it.
We just have to be careful next time.
EDITOR
You're pushing Sirius so much...
Anime information will be featured first in Sirius, too.
Of course!
EDITOR
Thank you for designing them, S-san.
There will probably be an exchangeable book cover as an extra in the magazine, too.
Sirius
We will advertise it well, so please check the magazine.
Please check it out.
Monthly Shonen Sirius (Kodansha)
EDITOR
Please!
Please read the next volume, too!!
...sorry this afterword seemed rushed. I really had no time.
So anyway...

There was a suggestion to have one at Fukuoka.
How nice.
Oh.
Oh, for the volume 3 signing...
Italian restaurant "La Pianta"
Do you have any stories to tell?
Stories...
Pizza is so good.
Yeah, I know there's more...
Darn.
Punk'd
EDITOR
I feel like I'M dying on flights.
When I have to ride one, I force myself.
I don't remember anything.
Oh, you're afraid of heights.
I wouldn't be able to handle it.
...I really hate airplanes!
Why didn't it happen?
That's because...
I thought it would be fun drinking on the train for six hours.
SHINE
Likes to drink
EDITOR
I don't mind going to Fukuoka by bullet train.
And when the issue came up of having a signing somewhere far away...
Huh?
"It'll take too long."
"I don't want to."
I suggested using the bullet train to my editor...
That's what he said.
EDITOR

Are you done?
BUZZ
BUZZ
Oh.
You girls were quiet.
Please check the magazine.
Sirius
So I might be going around the country to sign autographs.
...seems like fun!
That...
SHINE
Likes to drink
My ideal way of enjoying this book is leaving it by my pillow and reading it over from time to time.
The story is going to continue for a long time, so if you can enjoy it slowly, that would be great.
I like doing short, episodic chapters.
Of course, it won't have only battles. It'll show Yozakura-ish daily life, too.
Next is the Demon Hunter arc.
Anyway, this volume stopped with the end of an arc.
Please read volume 5, too! I'll see you again!
To my assistants, Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Kato-san, Takahashi-san, my editor, Kimura-san, etc., etc...and all the readers who cheer me on! Thank you very much!
My friend said that Yozakura fans are all nice people.
(What did he mean?)
That's it for this volume.
It may be hard, but I do try to make it "understandable." So please bear with me.
See you.
The cover for volume 5 is of her.

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

Jiang Shi, page 4

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their *chi* (living energy).

Hanamizuki, page 6

Hanamizuki is the Japanese name for *Cornus florida*, also known as flowering dogwood. It was sent as a thank-you gift to Japan in the early 1900s from the United States after Japan sent cherry blossoms to Washington D.C..

Tsundere, page 85

Mina is singing the town song, "Tsundere," which Hime taught to the kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof who can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

Stamp Rally, page 85

A stamp rally is a common activity in Japan where you get a card with spaces to stamp and you go around to various points to get those stamps. If you get all the stamps, you can get a prize.

Nabe, page 110

This dish includes vegetables such as *nappa* cabbage, mushrooms, green onions, tofu, and meat. The actual word *nabe* means "pot."

Udon, page 119

Udon is a white, thick noodle. People like to eat it after a *nabe* using the leftover soup.

Uchi-P, page 122
Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Toku-chan, page 122
Toku-chan is short for Yumi Tokunaga, an assistant to the show. She wasn't that good as an assistant and the comedians often picked on her for it. She eventually married Teruyoshi Uchimura, the host and executive producer of *Uchimura Produce*.

Yasu-Kiyo, page 122
Yasu-Kiyo refers to Yasushi Yokoyama and Kiyoshi Nishikawa, a comedic duo who were top entertainers in the 1970s and '80s.

Cameraman Tsuji, page 122
Cameraman Tsuji is a TV cameraman who works on Uchi-P. His full name is Minoru Tsuji.

Soba, page 184
Soba is the Japanese term for buckwheat noodles. They are gray in color and are one of the healthier noodles available in Japan. They can be served hot or cold, although in manga they are often depicted as cold.